

HARVARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

13 AYER ROAD • HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451



The Harvard Historical Commission is chartered "...to preserve and protect the historic assets of Harvard, its buildings, structures, places, sites, and surrounding settings of historical or architectural significance."

Following are the **minutes** for a meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, including public hearings, held via Zoom on, Wednesday, **November 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm**.

Submitted by George Triantaris (Chair) and Seth Trotz (Secretary)

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects, and signed into law on March 29, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone number below.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris (Chair)
Marijke Vallaey
Wendy Cote-Magan
Rebecca Sewall
Richard Cabelus
Steve Nizus
Seth Trotz
Pam Marston (Vice Chair)

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

AUDIENCE: David Fay -

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: August 2, 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

NON-APPLICABLE APPLICATIONS:

ONGOING APPLICATIONS:

1. **Harvard Advisory Energy Committee on behalf of the Town of Harvard** - replacement of streetlights in the Harvard Common Historic District – David Fay. **On hold**
2. **6 Littleton Road – Kelsey Hoontis:** Add asphalt "apron" to driveway – insubstantial change already established at prior meeting so no need for a hearing. Just need to vote on it at a subsequent meeting. The application was reviewed including photographs of the area where the apron is to be installed. Motion is made and voted on to approve application with Steve and George abstaining but all others voting yes including Marijke as an alternate.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

1. **7 Mass Ave – Sprague – heat pumps (retroactive application) :** Applicant failed to appear for this meeting. Skipping for now.

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ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Chair asks Wendy about efforts to involve inspector in HHC process. She reported that the inspector was looking into updating their online procedures to notify the commission when requests were made to install heat pumps (although she also points out that other outdoor equipment should be included). Wendy indicated that the inspector promised to follow up in about a week. The inspector is invested in helping nip these issues. The chair reiterates that the goal is not to prevent work from being performed but just to minimize impact, etc. The chair also notes the wide variation in the responses of various towns to this challenge with some providing clear guidelines and some doing nothing about it. Steve notes that HVAC might be a better, more generic, term than "heat pump" which is overly specific. Terminology that includes generators may be appropriate.
2. Chair asks Steve to follow up with Julie to get information for homeowners posted on web site. Chair reiterates request for commissioners to find additional resources to add to collection.
3. Chair indicates that letter was sent to district addressing some of these issues in an effort to educate owners and reduce issues with noncompliance. The chair suggests following up to confirm that letters were received (over 100 sent according to Pam).
4. Demolition delay bylaw – the chair presented a 2020 presentation regarding demolition delay bylaws. The chair asks if everyone is interested in continuing to pursue this. The verbal consensus was that we should continue to do so.
5. Training session – first one to go over rules. Scheduling discussion to follow via email.

NEW BUSINESS:

CORRESPONDENCE: n/a

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (ST) – n/a

CPC (PM) – n/a

Transportation Advisory Committee (PM) – n/a

Planning Board (RC) – n/a

Design Review Board (SN) –

Devens Committee (RC) – n/a

Energy Advisory Committee (RS) - Brian Smith is chair. George T. had a discussion with him last week to align better and clarify our support of energy upgrades including solar, heat pumps, etc. but just doing so in a way that is sensitive to historical concerns. Rebecca indicates that a meeting will happen in a week for this committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: n/a

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: December 6th was chosen as the date for the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.