

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."

Those wishing to record any or all of the meeting must, prior to the meeting's start, alert the chair to such and the chair will announce the fact, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the **minutes** for the public hearing of the Harvard Historical Commission at Volunteers Room, on **Wednesday, JANUARY 5, 2022 at 7pm**. Submitted by Richard Cabelus.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris (Chair)
Pamela Marston (Vice Chair)
Steve Nizgus
Emanuel Lindo
Brandon Loughery
Matthew McRae

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA: Richard Cabelus (Secretary)

AUDIENCE: Riccardo Strobino, Brandon Smithwood

CALL TO ORDER: * delayed due to technical difficulties

7:21 pm

TOPICS:

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Pam made a motion to approve the December 2021 minutes. Steve seconded. After roll call the December 2021 were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. 18 Fairbank Street – Strobino – Additional replacement windows, replacement doors and roof repair- SN

At 7:23 pm the Public Hearing was called to order when Pam made a motion to open the hearing which Brandon seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to open the hearing. Matt abstained as an abutter. The Chair surveyed if any members of the public were present and then asked Steve as advocate to present the application. Steve highlighted the fact that the application was 36 pages long, but said there are essentially 4 things: adding more windows, installing a new mudroom door, changing barn doors, and repairing the roof. The applicant then interjected and said there is a fifth item regarding adding a handrail to the front stairs. Steve then moved to present the windows. Steve noted that the Commission already recently approved windows for the home, and this application asks for the approval of additional windows. Commissioners had no questions on the windows. The Chair indicated that with respect to the roof, it is a replacement in kind and the Commission should not be too concerned about that repair. Steve then turned to the mudroom door. The applicant then shared his screen with the type of door he would be installing in the mudroom. No Commissioners had any questions regarding the door. The applicant then presented the proposed models and design examples for the

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replacement of the barn doors. The applicant showed a barn door on Elm Street on which he was seeking to copy the design of. The applicant asked for the approval of a barn door template as he has not found a manufacturer pre-fabricated design to his liking ready to go. The Chair indicated that the Commission could approve the design, but once he has the actual doors he should come back for approval, and it would not require a public hearing. At 7:29 Steve made a motion to close the public participation. Pam seconded. The motion was unanimously approved with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair indicated he received no written communications on this application. The Chair decided for the Commission to address the application in piecemeal fashion for clarity. The Chair asked for Commissioner comment on the windows. There were no comments. Brandon made a motion to approve the new windows with the consistency of the first application. Steve seconded. It passed unanimously with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair then turned to the mudroom door. Pam said it is an appropriate change. The Chair agreed. Brandon made a Motion to accept and approve the new door proposal. Pam seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair then turned to the barn doors. The Chair indicated this will not be a final approval because the applicant did not present a ready to go door, but merely a design at this point. Brandon commented that the applicant's prospective barn door design, being consistent with other homes in the district, is a welcome addition to the harmony of the district. Pam then motioned to accept a design or a similar design of the barn doors that have been proposed. The Chair clarified the motion was to approve the design as presented. Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair asked that the handrail and roof repair be considered as one topic. No Commissioners had any comments. Steve made a motion to approve the roof and handrail. Manny seconded. The Motion passed unanimously with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair indicated to the applicant that he was approved and The Chair will issue a certificate of appropriateness. The Chair asked the applicant to come back and notify the Commission once he has actual barn doors ready to be installed so the Commission can determine that it is consistent with the design as approved. The applicant said he would and thanked the Commission.

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS:

1. 11 Mass. Ave – Brandon Smithwood – Alteration to driveway (insubstantial change)

The Chair indicated that this is an insubstantial change to a driveway that was reviewed by the Commission last month. It would not require a formal hearing. The Chair again inquired if there were any members of the public viewing who may want to comment. Steve indicated there were none. Pam moved to approve the change as proposed. Manny seconded. The motion passed unanimously with Matt abstaining as an abutter. The Chair indicated he did not know if the applicant would need a Certificate of Appropriateness because of the nature of the application and work, but he would issue the applicant one anyway in case the building inspector needed it. The applicant thanked the Commission and the hearing was concluded.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

NON-APPLICABLE APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chair's updates and project progress report review – GT

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The Chair reminded everyone that if they have not already done so they need to do the ethics training. The Chair indicated do not try to multitask while you are doing it. It requires some time and if Commissioners have not already done so make sure they are up to date with that training.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Shaker Herb House Grant Application (ML)

Manny indicated that he got the lead testing done on the Herb House last month. Manny thanked Steve for all of his help and assistance and the testing came in under budget. Manny expected he would get a decision on the CPC grant request. Manny went over the remaining process if CPC granted the application. Manny hoped if all went well, he would be able to send in the application in March 2022.

2. Bromfield House – possible addition to Harvard Common Historic District (PM)

The Chair said the Town Manager told him any warrant article regarding Bromfield House would not be considered until the fall 2022 town meeting. The spring town meeting is generally reserved for fiscal warrant articles. Pam then informed the Commission that the Select Board at a meeting the prior night voted unanimously to sell the Bromfield House in the future. This is a change of course from their earlier position. The Chair indicated that he would like to know the timeline as to when the Select Board is looking to sell the Bromfield House as the Commission would hope to have the Bromfield House in the historical district before any sale. Pam also indicated there was a proposal to house Afghan refugees in the Bromfield House in the interim. Manny interjected that he thought the Afghan resettlement in Bromfield House was for just a year. Pam indicated she did not know of a timeframe when such housing of Afghans would start or conclude. It may be one or two years she said. Pam indicated she needed people to work as a study group to form a report, as a precursor to putting Bromfield House in the district. The Chair asked if anyone on the Commission wanted to work on this. Manny offered his services to provide technical assistance when called upon. Pam said she can be the study committee, and also have other people work independently on parts of the study committee. The Chair indicated he will go on the study committee, and just to be careful they work appropriately within the rules. The Commission voted unanimously to create the study committee with Pam and George on the committee. The Chair then indicated with regard to the overall Harvard Common Historic District should we amend the map to exclude the school and follow property lines. This would be clearer. The Chair thought that since we are undertaking including Bromfield House in the district this would also be a chance to clean up these issues as well.

3. Project currently on hold:

Demolition delay (GT)

Town Center lighting and power lines (GT)

Harvard Narrative History – historical surveys 1993-1994 (GT)

Certificate of Appropriateness – upload historical records on website (GT)

Possible expansion of historical districts (GT and RC)

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CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (MM)

No update

CPC (PM)

Pam indicated CPC will be meeting to consider what applications CPC is supporting.

Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Pam made note of the survey on the Planning Board's website regarding the market study for Ayer Road.

Planning Board (RC)

Devens Committee (RC)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: February 2, 2022, 7 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm passed unanimously.