

# 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 alert the chair prior to the start of the meeting and the chair will make an announcement, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the **minutes** of the regular meeting and public hearing of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **February 2, 2022 at 7 pm**.

Submitted by Richard Cabelus, Secretary.

## **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: David Fay**

George Triantaris (Chair)  
Pam Marston (Vice Chair)  
Richard Cabelus (Secretary)  
Emanuel Lindo  
Steve Nigzus  
Brandon Loughery  
Matthew McRae

## **MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

None

**AUDIENCE:** David Fay

## **TOPICS:**

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

**7:00 pm**

## **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Matt made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2022 HHC meeting. Steve seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Richard Abstained.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

## **ONGOING APPLICATION:**

None.

## **NEW APPLICATIONS:**



## 1. Town of Harvard - new streetlights

At 7:03 The Chair explained to the applicant the 2-step process for adjudicating the application. The purpose today was for the Commission to decide if the application was a substantial or insubstantial change. Steve pulled up the application to share. The applicant Mr. Fay, a member of the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee, began presenting the Application. Mr. Fay explained that this project was to replace the street lights in Town with LED more efficient streetlights. Mr. Fay explained about 20-21 lights were in the Harvard Common Historic District. This prospective project in conjunction with National Grid, is to replace streetlights with LED lights. Mr. Fay indicated this would save the Town 1500 dollars per year. National Grid also has incentives for the conversion of several thousand dollars. Mr. Fay then showed a map as to where the lights are located. Mr. Fay indicated there was one street light marked on the map with a letter "A" at the corner of Still River Road and Elm Street. This street light is different because it has a fluted shade. Mr. Fay also indicated there was one light on Oak Hill Road that is likely outside of the District, but he included it anyway out of an abundance of caution. Mr. Fay then showed pictures of prospective lights. Mr. Fay explained the luminaire is different, longer and less wide on the prospective lights. Mr. Fay explained some of the subtle differences between the prospective light in the picture and what would actually be installed. Mr. Fay then stated that the lights are 3000 kelvin lights that look like incandescent lights. Mr. Fay indicated he could not get cut sheets of the actual lights to be installed, but these pictures were as close as what will be installed. The Chair then indicated that from the Commission's perspective, it will be focusing on the look and design of the lights. The Chair indicated that the lights currently there were not the most attractive. The Chair stated that in his opinion we would have to have a public hearing as it deals with the Harvard Common and that should always require a public hearing. Brandon then interjected as to whether there are examples of more attractive historical appropriate lights in other towns like Concord or similar communities like that. Matt and Manny agreed that this would be an opportunity to look a little broader to look at historically appropriate aesthetically appealing light fixtures. Mr. Fay indicated that National Grid actually owns the lights, and the Town just pays for the electricity. Mr. Fay indicated that this is a specific program that National Grid has and it may be somewhat inflexible as to the design and style of the lights. Matt then asked if other towns that already partook in this program had been able to request different designs in the historical districts. Mr. Fay indicated that he did not know, both Bolton and Ayer have historical districts but he did not know. The Chair asked if maybe that could be looked into but that it is doubtful National Grid would buy special light fixtures and that would likely have to be incurred by the Town, which is outside the scope of this application. Richard then asked if the illumination is different would that be something the Commission should consider because in his opinion, looking at the guidelines it looks like that should be considered. Mr. Fay indicated that there will certainly be a difference in illumination. Richard then asked if there were any examples around as to how the lights will illuminate. Mr. Fay indicated Mechanic Street in Bolton would have similarly illuminated lights. Matt indicated that the arrays could be altered and the luminate output could be altered and light scatter could be varied. The Chair indicated that David should come back with the light information and we can have the answers to these questions before the next meeting. Mr. Fay indicated in terms of the quality of the light he was not sure how the Commission could see that and how that could be facilitated as Harvard is the first customer for the 3000 kelvin lights. The Chair indicated it is important that the Commission knows what we are getting before they are put in. Matt then made a motion that this is a substantial change. Pam seconded. The Motion passed unanimously. Matt volunteered to get the notices out before the next hearing. The Chair then briefly explained to Mr. Fay the process of notice and procedural issues before the next meeting. Mr. Fay then commented Harvard historically has been sensitive to lighting in Harvard and there may be wide public input before the next meeting. The Chair thanked the applicant and the matter was tabled.

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**NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Chair's updates and project progress report review

The Chair indicated that the Application online was the old Application and he had Julie update the Application to the revised version. The Chair then indicated that he put together an annual report of what the Commission had done the previous year. The Chair forwarded a report that he put together. The Chair indicated that he would have preferred to discuss it at a meeting, but there was not time and he did not want to convene a special meeting. The Chair then indicated that there has been some property turnover in the Districts and the Commission would want to mail out mailers to the new property owners welcoming them to the Town and explaining to them the functions and process of the Historical Commission. The Chair then indicated the online MACRIS database has been re-done and it stores all the profiles on historic homes in Harvard. The Chair indicated it is a good resource and we should use this as a resource when we are adjudicating applications on specific properties. Matt indicated his house however was not accurate in the MACRIS system, which got a humorous shrug from the Commission. The Chair did indicate however that there are ways to report inaccuracies on the system and we can look into that.

## **ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

1. Shaker Herb House Grant Application (ML)

Manny stated the CPC has approved the funding and Town matching funds are available. Further, the Select Board has voted to support the application. Manny was happy with the package and that it looks really good, and he hopes to finalize it before March 1, 2022. Manny then went over some of the prospective renovations that would be done, including brick reappointment, a rotted door, and an asymmetrical steep drop step. Manny stated that he would hope to fix the door and some of these other things. The question Manny had was do we just seek to do the door as some of the prospective work is interior. The Chair asked if the door is visible from a public way. Manny indicated he was not sure, he would have to take a look. If it is visible he would need an Application to come through the Commission. No such application would be needed for the interior work. Everyone congratulated Manny for the hard work and the good news.

2. Bromfield House - possible addition of Bromfield to Harvard Common Historic District and other changes to the district map (PM, GT)

The Chair went over some prospective changes. The Chair asked Manny, as an architect, if he could write a short statement as to why the Bromfield House is architecturally significant. This is required for the report Pam is compiling to support the change to the District. Manny said he would be happy to do that. The Chair

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then shared the news that the Select Board has endorsed these changes and that is good news. The Chair then indicated that the Harvard Press has reported on this. The Chair indicated that as we address the Bromfield House in the District we should also deal with the school language issue. The Chair indicated that we should make the language to reflect as originally intended when written and to be more clear so the issues the Commission and Town went through earlier can be avoided. The Chair indicated this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Matt and Richard agreed. Richard indicated the language should be a bright line with no ambiguity for structures built as to whether they are educational and school related or not. The Chair said that we should not attempt to alter the Harvard Common Historic Map in any other way as if may be taking on too much and prevent passage of the whole warrant article. The Commissioners all agreed with that approach.

3. Demolition Delay (GT)  
Town Center lighting and power lines (GT)  
Harvard Narrative History – historical surveys 1993 and 1994 (GT)  
Certificates of Appropriateness – upload historical records on website (GT)  
Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

1. Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing to report

2. CPC (PM)

Pam stated all CPC applications were passed by CPC and that Manny now needs the Warrant Article wording and Didi, the CPC Chair, has a template that Pam will forward to Manny.

3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Pam stated there is a meeting tomorrow night and they will be discussing bike paths and walkable paths.

4. Planning Board (RC)

Richard went over the state mandatory MBTA bylaw for multifamily housing and Harvard would be required to have 750 units under the current proposed regulation. The Planning Board is preparing a comment to the bylaw.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

Richard went over the Devens issue regarding rezoning of Vicksburg Square and the committee's position that rezoning should wait until final governance is determined. There is a meeting with the state delegation tomorrow with the committee to discuss.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY:**

None.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

## **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

March 2, 2022.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED:**

The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:03 pm.