

# 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 is the **agenda** for a regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission to be held via Zoom on, Wednesday, **December 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm**. Access information for members of the public:

UpperTH ProWebinar is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

**AUDIENCE:** SusanMary Redinger, Dr. Linda Dwight, Pat Harrigan, Tina Bardenheuer

**TOPICS:**

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm**

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

Will not review minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. **Resumption of Public Hearing for 27 Mass Ave:** Steve made a motion to open the public hearing. Manny seconded. Unanimous vote. Commissioners had site visit last week to look at the site and an example of the materials, so that HHC could see exactly where they would be replaced and what they looked like.

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SusanMary Redinger discussed the plans for the wall and displayed the application, including pictures. Dr. Linda Dwight, representing Harvard Public Schools as Superintendent, and Pat Harrigan, Facilities Manager, were present as well to answer questions. Manny wanted to verify that at the site visit, it was indicated that there was a choice of materials available for the fencing, either aluminum or wrought iron. Is that correct? SusanMary said no, had asked for pricing on the wrought iron and it's 2 to 3 times as expensive, outside of their budget, cost-prohibitive. SusanMary requesting HHC approval on aluminum. Richard asked if this application included fencing across the street. SusanMary said no. Steve made a motion to close the presentation and open the public hearing. Seth seconded. Unanimous vote. Richard received a message from a resident against the fence that wanted it to be read into the record. Deborah Scowen [sp?], on Still River Road. Steve made a motion to close public participation. Pam seconded. Unanimous vote. Steve asked SusanMary a question, did she consider decoupling safety fence from being on top of the granite wall and instead putting it 6 or 8 feet in, to create a channel between stone wall and new asphalt walkway. SusanMary said no, citing reasons. Turned question over to Pat Harrigan. Discussion continued. Manny had some concerns about the aluminum fencing not seeming substantial enough to withstand abuse from kids. Matthew brought up concerns as well. SusanMary addressed the concerns. Manny made a motion to approve the stone wall. Richard seconded. Unanimous vote. Steve made a motion to approve metal fence on new stone wall. Seth seconded. Seth-yes, Matt-yes, Manny-yes, Steve-yes, Richard-yes, Pam-no, George-yes. Seth made a motion to approve possible new fence on the existing stone wall. ? seconded. Seth-yes, Matt-yes, Manny-yes, Steve-yes, Richard-yes, Pam-no, George-yes. Pam made a motion to close the public hearing. Steve seconded. Unanimous vote.

2. **David Fay Resumption of Public Hearing** – some problem with National Grid, getting them to change the bulb, nothing's happened on that. Matt pointed out that there are two new lights on Fairbank.

## ONGOING APPLICATIONS:

1. **Congregational Church 5 Still River Road**– insubstantial change - Tina Bardenheuer spoke on behalf of the Congregational Church's Unique Boutique, explaining what they'd like to do for the sign. Matt made a motion of approval to sign. Pam seconded. Unanimous vote.

## NEW APPLICATIONS:

## NON-APPLICABLE APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Need to pull together HHC's Annual Report. Pam will do first draft of that. Due end of January.

## ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Making things more straightforward. George had made progress on this. Expanding the list of exemptions, which was to be done through public hearing. George made first draft of that. Will circulate before next meeting. If anyone has looked at other towns and has other ideas, let him know. "Ordinary maintenance" term will be defined according to what Commonwealth recommends, "Ordinary maintenance applies to a change as long as you don't change materials or design of the feature." George checked with other towns. Uncomfortable with Chair doing that. George believed HHC should adopt what town of Lincoln does, one-meeting review. Opened for discussion.
2. Shaker Herb House Grant Application follow-up (ML)  
Has been thrown back to Select Board. There was a letter that the Conservation Commission sent, saying that they are not going to be involved because they have no budget for it, and they only are concerned with the plantings around the buildings, not the building itself. Two options: Someone could

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go to Select Board meeting and say, "This has been thrown back at you. Here it is. What are you going to do about it?" Or drop it and not worry about it anymore. Manny would say at this point, if letter has just gone to the Select Board, HHC ought to wait and see what the Select Board does. Will tell liaison to Select Board that HHC will take no action and wait to hear.

3. Bromfield House

George believed the Town Clerk may have this week filed the votes. Can't file the map until the Attorney General has filed.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

### Monument Committee (MM)

#### CPC (PM)

Meeting in January to vote on the applications for CPC monies, which is about \$400,000 that can be disseminated to various groups in town. Applications amount to about \$900,000, so there will be some disappointed applicants.

#### Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Disbanded because nobody listened to them at Town Hall, but now back meeting every other month. Different people are working with different groups outside of town. In general, what TAC wants to do is have walking trails, bike trails, and bike paths on roadways to connect various places within our town to other towns. Some of us meet with other groups in order to bring things about.

#### Planning Board (RC)

Lots going on. Project Steve mentioned, also agricultural bylaw, possible amendment for entertainment activities for commercial agriculture. But most relevant is new bylaw proposal that Select Board is hoping to get before a special town meeting in January is a town center entertainment overlay district. Looking at a new map that we had on Monday, would really encumber a lot of the town center at the historic common, our district. Remains to be seen how that might affect the HHC moving forward if the overlay goes through. Might increase some activity there, with accessory entertainment for businesses there, which could then maybe affect signage and structures that might in the future come before HHC. So that's something to keep an eye on. Will keep HHC posted.

#### Design Review Board (SN)

Met yesterday and will be meeting again next week. Reviewing a large project on Ayer Road, not related to HHC.

#### Devens Committee (RC)

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** January 4, 2023

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 7:57 pm.