

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 **March 2, 2022 at 7 pm.**

Submitted by Richard Cabelus, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris (Chair)
Pam Marston (Vice Chair)
Richard Cabelus (Secretary)
Emanuel Lindo
Steve Nigzus
Brandon Loughery (joined at 7:02 p.m.)
Matthew McRae

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

None

AUDIENCE: David Fay, Seth Trotz, Jared A. Wollaston

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Commission unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Harvard Advisory Energy Committee on behalf of the Town of Harvard - replacement of streetlights in the Harvard Common Historic District - David Fay

The Chair explained that the Commission would not be able to conclude this application today as there is relevant information that is still missing from the Application. However, as it was scheduled for public hearing today, Mr. Fay would present the Application and the Commission would then decide the best way to proceed. At 7:04 a Motion was made to open the public hearing and presentation. It was approved unanimously. The public hearing was open. Steve pulled up the application. Matt is the advocate. Mr. Fay then reviewed the Application to present at the public hearing. Mr. Fay said this is a project to replace street lights in Harvard with new LED street lights. It is a project through National Grid. All adjacent towns have already done this. Mr. Fay described the cash incentive of about 3,500.00 dollars as well as cost savings of about 1,500.00 dollars per year. Mr. Fay said the Select Board and the Town Manager are behind this. Mr. Fay indicated the LED lights have a color temperature that are like incandescent lights. However, these lights are new to the National Grid program and they are not available

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yet for review. Mr. Fay then explained Harvard has 2 kinds of street lights: high pressure sodium and mercury vapor lights. Mr. Fay then described how each of those street lights worked and looked. Mr. Fay then went through pictures of the different lights we have in Harvard currently. Mr. Fay then presented a picture of an LED light in Bolton that was installed a few years ago. Mr. Fay stated that this light would resemble the type of light we would receive in Harvard. Mr. Fay then showed a map of the Harvard Common Historic District and had marked on the map where the lights proposed to be replaced in the District would be located. Mr. Fay indicated National Grid is flexible if one or two lights did not want to be converted. Mr. Fay indicated that Harvard does not have to participate in this program at all. Further, Mr. Fay said National Grid has offered to install a working pilot light so residents could inspect and see if the light is something they would welcome. The Chair then asked how many lights were outside the District. Mr. Fay said about 44 lights total, including the lights in the District, and about 25 lights outside the District. The Chair then indicated what is in front of the Commission is switching out contemporary light fixtures with more contemporary light fixtures. While this is not ideal, it is what the Application and situation is. The Chair indicated that while light output is significant, National Grid is not offering to put up more historically attractive light fixtures. The Chair asked if any Commissioners wanted to ask any questions. No Commissioners had questions. Matt motioned to close the presentation and open public commentary. Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The Chair again cautioned we have not seen the pilot example, and the Commission is holding final decision until that pilot light is available. The Chair asked if anyone was speaking in favor of the Application. Seth Trotz spoke in favor of the project generally. However, he issued concerns of light pollution. Mr. Trotz wondered if there were choices the community could select from comparing light pollution, aesthetics, and consistency of lighting. Mr. Fay indicated there are basically two options, LEDs at 4000 Kelvin or 3000 Kelvin, the latter would be incandescent. Matt asked that he thought light output would be the same as Harvard had now. Mr. Fay indicated light has different qualities, and he was not sure what the proposed lights look like until we see the pilot. Mr. Trotz interjected that he specializes in optics and the important aspect is where it is cast and LEDs can be good at putting light where we want it, and not where we do not want it. Mr. Trotz wanted to know where these lights are also located. The Chair indicated a sample will be installed in Harvard for review, and a spec sheet. The Chair said we will have a good idea then. Mr. Jared Wolliston indicated that he submitted a letter but most of his concerns were already addressed. However, Mr. Wolliston asked if the savings is to the whole Town and the Town does not have to pay any money at all for this installment. Mr. Fay indicated National Grid puts the lights in, they own them, we just lease the lights for use. Mr. Wolliston says he is concerned about the light and the glow and is looking forward to seeing the glow of the lights on the pilot light. Mr. Wolliston indicated the 2 antique lights at Cross Street and near the church that he would like to see those fixtures maintained. Mr. Wolliston said those light fixtures are from the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Chair indicated he had an email from Christopher Squire of 12 Oak Hill Road and he had concerns with the new lights and felt there should be better alternatives. He was generally unsupportive. Steve then asked Mr. Fay when the test light will be available. Mr. Fay said National Grid is still waiting for the test light. Pam then wanted to make clear new lights are going in outside of the District, and lights will only go into the District pending Commission approval. Steve then made a Motion to Close Public Participation. Pam seconded. Motion approved unanimously. The Chair then indicated the Commission has 2 options. (1) The Commission can deny the Application or (2) the Commission can continue the Application until the sample light goes up for view. However, in order to continue the Application the Applicant would have to agree to continue the 60 days time limit on an Application being adjudicated or its automatically approved. The Applicant agreed to the continuance tolling the accrual of the 60 days. The Chair agreed the public hearing would be continued, and no new notice would have to be sent. Matt then said he would like to vote on the antique lights and keep them. Manny said he agrees with keeping the 2 antique fixtures. Matt made a Motion to Keep the Existing Antique Lights in the District. The Motion passed unanimously. The antique light fixtures will be preserved. Steve made motion to close the public hearing. The Motion passed unanimously. The hearing concluded at 7:40

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ONGOING APPLICATION:

None.

NEW APPLICATIONS:

None.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Commissioner annual appointments.

The Chair indicated he assumed everyone whose term is expiring received notice from the Town. Steve, Brandon and George's term is up and people need to decide if they are going to renew.

2. Chair's updates and project progress report to review - GT

The Chair asked Steve if he looked up how many homes turned over in the District in the past year. Two houses have sold in the District where the Commission would want to provide welcome letters to the new homeowners welcoming them to Town and informing them about the Commission and what we do and how an Application process works if they undertake anything requiring Commission review. Mat indicated he could hand the letter to both new homeowners and introduce himself as he lives close by. The Chair thanked Matt for doing that.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Shaker Herb House Grant Application (ML)

Manny said the grant package was sent in on the 15th of February. The State Historical Commission has received the application. The Herb House door could not be seen from a public way and will not require an Application before the Commission. Manny also consulted the building inspector about what needs to be done if the grant is approved. Manny said the approach planned to be taken on the lead paint on the house is to do a soft reduction and preserve as much of the structure as possible. Lead reduction will be done rather than lead abatement. There will be 2 warrants at Town Meeting. One is the CPC funding. The second is the state preservation restriction. The latter gives the Select Board to power negotiate with the state on a preservation restriction on the building.

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

Pam said town counsel and Bromfield Trust lawyer will continue to have meetings as to how the funds on the sale of the house will be distributed. Pete Jackson of the Trust Committee indicated to Pam this process will take a while. In the interim the Bromfield House will house Afghan refugees if necessary. The Chair asked about the study committee and the application regarding placing Bromfield in the Common District. The Chair indicated the study committee would have to be filed with the state and Harvard Planning Board. The Chair indicated addressing the confusing "school buildings not included" language on the current Harvard Common District map and the new language proposed says "public school buildings constructed by the Town of Harvard on lots 17 and 42, or any subdivision thereof, are not subject to approval of the Harvard Historical Commission". The Chair asked if there were any questions about that clarifying language. No Commissioners has comments so that language would be added to the package amending the Harvard Common District Map.

3. Project currently on hold:

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:

1. email from Christopher Squire, 12 Oak Hill Road regarding lighting application.
2. Letter from Jarad A. Wollaston regarding lights in the Harvard Common Historical District

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

1. Monument Committee (MM)

Nothing to report

2. CPC (PM)

All warrant articles written and sent in.

3. Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Meeting March 9, 2022 regarding sidewalks and bike paths on Mill Road.

4. Planning Board (RC)

Finishing draft comments on Multi-Family MBTA Zoning.

5. Devens Committee (RC)

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Nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Jared Wolliston said “we are doing a great job.” The Commission thanked him.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

April 6, 2022

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Matt made a Motion to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.