

# 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."*

The following are the minutes from the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission in the Volunteer Room at the Town Hall, on August 2, 2017 at 7:00pm.

## TOPICS:

### CALL TO ORDER:

7:00

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Nigzus  
George Triantaris  
Daria Swanton  
Emanuel Lindo

Ben Guthro (Chair)  
David Vannicola (Vice-Chair)

### MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

Pam Marston (Secretary)

### AUDIENCE:

Ken Swanton and Wendy Cote-Magan

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

**APPOINT A NOTE TAKER:** Daria Swanton

**PUBLIC HEARING:** (None)

**NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:** (None)

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**ON-GOING APPLICATIONS:** (None)

### NEW BUSINESS:

Old Library Project

Wendy Cote-Magan and Ken Swanton from the Old Library Accessibility Committee met with the Commission to review their draft plan for making this historic town building accessible. They are proposing to restore the original front entrance to the building with steps down to the Common. For accessibility the design would incorporate a sloped path from the sidewalk that would lead to a bridge to a landing in front of the door. The proposed design may also eliminate the existing side door, but that is not final as they are waiting for cost estimates.

The Commission discussed the proposal and provided informal feedback. Commissioners felt that in general it was a good idea to restore the historic front entrance. However, Commissioners felt that the proposed handrails on the steps down to the common were not as good as ones more appropriate to the era of the building. If town meeting approves funding of the accessibility project then the final proposal will then come to the commission for formal review.

HES Applicability to HHC Purview

The Commission then discussed the question of whether the design of the proposed new elementary school should be reviewed and approved by the Commission. Ben reported that town council felt that the current town bylaw probably exempts the school from review. However, Town Council also felt there was some ambiguity, and suggested that a clarifying article be brought to town meeting for a vote to clear it up. Daria was asked to get input from Ken (the Board of Selectmen liaison to the Commission) as to what is the process to make this kind of change.

### ON-GOING BUSINESS:

Ben briefly reported on various ongoing projects. The Conservation Commission did not OK the clearing of more brush around the shaker herb house. Marie Solbavarro said that we cannot break the library wall project into two projects.

The DPW has put up the two Historic District signs that had come down.

George has received a binder of minutes of past meetings from a long ago Commissioner. Ben will try to find out where minutes of old meetings are stored, and whether these newly found ones are needed.

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How to tackle master plan assignments- tabled until September meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (none, other than HES applicability)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:**

**Monument Committee** (DV) Dave reported on the WW1 Monument Committee, and described that a plan is being developed with Daedalus to restore the base of the Monument.

**CPC** (PM)

**Cemetery Commission** (DS)

**Demolition Delay Committee** (PM)

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** None

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Sep 6, 2017

**Meeting Adjourned 8:07pm**

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