

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."

Following are the minutes for the regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission at Hildreth House on May 9, 2018 at 7:00pm.

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:02

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Triantaris
Daria Swanton
Aron Clarke
Pam Marston (Secretary)

Emanuel Lindo
Ben Guthro (Chair)
David Vannicola (Vice-Chair)
Steve Nigzus

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA (None)

OLAC: Ken Swanton, Lucy Wallace and Wendy Cote-Magan

AUDIENCE: Nate Finch, Marty and Paul Greene, Chris Cutler, Pete Jackson, Mary Traphagen, Corey Dufres, Matt Cronin, Debbie and Fred Hinchliffe (all local residents) and Larry Spang from the architectural firm, Arrowstreet, for the school building project.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes for April were unanimously approved as modified by George's additional wording.

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS / PUBLIC HEARING: (None)

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: (None)

NEW APPLICATIONS: (None)

NOTE: This meeting was recorded in its entirety, by Nate Finch, without notification of such to the commission prior to the meeting commencing or at any time during the meeting.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. OLAC presentation: Dave Pollack presented the new design for the Old Library. He explained the design of the accessibility ramp as open metal allowing for the elements to flow through on the ramp yet small enough to prevent high heels from getting stuck in the grate. The overall look would be one of looking through the ramp sides to showcase the building itself. He also described how the original tile in the entryway will be exposed as it was originally.

Audience Questions: How would a service dog do with the grate as regards their toe nails? Is there enough width for a service animal to walk alongside a wheelchair? It was noted that the window on the new pop out is larger than others. Dave said that the windows will all be the same height.

A move was made and seconded that the renovation and ramp will be a substantial change. The commission voted in the affirmative unanimously. Pam and Ben will send out notices to abutters for a public hearing to be held on June 6.

2. Aron Clarke presented an application to replace his front and side door. Two windows will also be replaced. The materials will most likely be wood. The commissioners voted unanimously that the changes were substantial. There will be a public hearing on that application, on June 6, as well.

3. Bromfield wall rebuild (EL) Manny and Pam have talked with the contractor about finishing the renovation of the rest of the wall. They will file an application with CPC, for approximately \$80,000, to complete the project. This rebuild was originally a Park and Rec project planned for completion over three years but budget constraints in CPC with the town hall rebuild sidelined the project. HHC picked up the project and continues to move it along.

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4. Indigenous Stone Landscapes (PM, DV) Pam and David attended a meeting at the New Library prior to a presentation by Doug Harris about indigenous stone landscapes. Doug is the Deputy Historic Preservation Officer, Narragansett Indian Tribal Preservation Office. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Harvard Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Most of these structures are on private lands and hidden from public view. Representatives from other boards in town were there to be briefed on the topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Officer Elections Discussions in June. We will need two non chairs to run the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (DV) The committee has not met since Feb. Reginini-Zoll is still working on the base. The fire department will sand and paint the flag pole. The committee really wants to have it done by Veterans Day. Debbie Hinchliffe suggested that a POW flag be added to the memorial as other towns have done. David will look into that.

CPC (PM)

- Michelle Catalina will advise Manny and Pam about how to write a proposal for more renovations to the Bromfield wall to be presented to CPC by September in case we can get approximately \$80K from them again.

Cemetery Commission (DS)

Warrant Article Investigation (GT)

George reported on his conversation with Christopher Skelley, Director of Local Government Programs Massachusetts Historical Commission, to seek guidance on handling the issue of the notation on the Harvard Common Historic District Map with regard to school buildings.

- o Chris agreed that the notation was not clear
- o Stated that Harvard's bylaw regarding a structure partially in the district deemed to be wholly in the district is unusual
- o Was surprised by the bylaw stating Harvard could not exempt public buildings and unsure how this would impact attempts to exempt school buildings

George outlined the recommendation discussed in prior meetings, namely to propose two warrant articles. The first, that the note exempting schools be defined to include *only* the Bromfield School, and the second that the note be defined to include *both* the Bromfield and Hildreth Elementary Schools. There was discussion as to whether this would best be accomplished via a new bylaw or a new map. It was decided that a new map would provide the most clarity. Proposed language will be provided for the next meeting.

There was a question as to when a new map or bylaw would take effect, if it passed. It seems, subject to verification, it would take effect as soon as passed, filed with the town clerk and recorded in the registry of deeds.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: June 6, 2018 (at Town Hall, large meeting room)

Meeting Adjourned 8:42