

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, prior to the meeting's start, alert the chair to such and the chair will announce the fact, in accordance with The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Following are the **minutes** for a regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission held via Zoom and accessible to the public on Wednesday, **June 3, 2020** at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA: None

AUDIENCE: Matt McRae, 20 Fairbank Street

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:02 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

NEW APPLICATIONS: None

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: None

ON-GOING APPLICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Election of HHC officers. After some discussion the following officer slate was approved by unanimous vote: Pam Marston chair, Steve Nigzus vice chair, and George Triantaris secretary.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Bromfield stonewall project - update
Project cannot proceed until approval at the town meeting. CPC has approved.
2. Town Center lighting and power lines – on hold



3. Certificates of Appropriateness – update on uploading prior certificates on HHC website
George will work with Julie Doucet to establish new folders on the web page. Brandon offered to help.
4. Design Guidelines – discuss suggested revisions
Several commissioners have sent Manny suggested revisions to the existing and proposed new sections of the guidelines. Manny will assemble these, and any others from those who have not responded, in a document for circulation. Richard has converted the pdf file to a word document so that Manny can make edits and additions.
5. Rules and Regulations (previously known as policies and procedures) – update on revisions
George sent Richard a first draft of the new document. Richard has made suggestions for additions. George and Richard will coordinate and come up with a draft that can be shared with the other commissioners.
6. Insubstantial Changes – create list of alterations that will be deemed insubstantial and streamline process for their approval
Brandon presented a slide with an overview of how the commission might approach the issue of defining insubstantial changes and creating a list of such changes, making approval easier for homeowners. Richard worked with Brandon on this and mentioned that there is a lack of consensus among towns in Massachusetts on how to deal with this issue. He also talked about improving the written materials so that residents could understand the process before they file an application. George talked about a process that would define certain changes as insubstantial unless there was a particular reason why a public hearing should be held – e.g. paint color might be deemed insubstantial in most cases but could be very important on a particular structure. Commissioners were asked to review the slides and send comments to Brandon.
7. Harvard Narrative History – historical survey 1993 and 1994 – on hold
8. HHC welcome packet for new homeowners – update
Brandon led a discussion about how we might introduce new residents to the HHC and its work. He has developed a web page with a welcome message and links to HHC resources. This led to a discussion about how to improve the web page that lives on the Town of Harvard site in order to make it friendlier and more useful. It was suggested that an email could be sent to new residents that would load the welcome page. Matt suggested that HHC members visit new district residents. Steve could alert commissioners when properties within the district sell. Commissioners asked to review the slide and make suggestions for edits/additions.
9. New HHC members and alternates
Matt McRae has expressed an interest in joining the commission. He will complete the volunteer form and other steps necessary for appointment.
10. 92 South Shaker Road – Thayer property
As agreed at the last meeting, Pam sent a letter to Alice Thayer asking about her intentions with regard to structures on her property at 92 South Shaker Road and whether a survey to show where the historic district line crosses her land had been conducted. Alice responded to Pam stating that although the survey has yet to be completed she believes the garden with the cannabis plants (which appears to be surrounded by black plastic) is located outside the district. Pam responded by email reminding Alice that the garden closer to South Shaker Road which also has a fence around it may well be in the district in which case it would be subject to HHC review. Pam shared pictures of these gardens. George raised the problem faced when the district line goes through a piece of property as it is not clear that these lines have been surveyed

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The issue of whether a structure is in the district has come up several times. Pam agreed to visit Liz Allard at town hall to learn more.

CORRESPONDENCE: Email from Marc Sevigny

Marc Sevigny has sent several emails concerning the fences on the Thayer property. See above for details on this subject.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee Richard will join this committee as liaison. Pat Jennings to facilitate.

CPC (PM) See above for discussion regarding Bromfield wall

Cemetery Commission

Demolition Delay Committee: (GT) Delayed until Select Board determines when this issue can be presented at a town meeting. George will contact after spring town meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: July 1, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNED:

8:10 pm

DOCUMENTS:

1. Draft insubstantial changes outline
2. Draft welcome package
3. Correspondence and pictures of Thayer property