

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 **Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7 pm.**

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

Matthew McRae

AUDIENCE:

In addition to the applicants and those noted below, Oliver Deng (Bromfield student) and Ricardo Strobino (possible future resident of Fairbank Street) attended.

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the April 7, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote

ONGOING APPLICATION: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

88 Shaker Road – Amy Paul – Roof

Public Hearing opened at 7:03

Presentation opened

Presentation of application

Amy Paul presented

Pam began by reading from the MACRIS report and pointing out the significance of the shaker tailor shop which was enlarged about 20 years ago.

Amy stated that the current wood shingle roof needs to be replaced as the shingles have deteriorated. The roof was installed when the addition was constructed. She is proposing to replace the wood shingles with architectural grade asphalt as a more economical option. She does not feel the look will be significantly different. She showed several pictures.

Presentation closed

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Public Presentation opened

Public comments in favor:

Karl Nock, 84 Shaker Road, thought the proposed shingles were a good match.

Marl Sevigny, Shaker Road, thought the shingles were compatible.

Public comments against:

None

Public Participation closed

Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote

Manny was in favor of the change and felt that asphalt was less of a fire hazard than wood.

George was conflicted pointing out that although the current wood shingles are not original to the house, they are a distinctive element of the design of the house as it stands today and it could be argued that they should be retained or replaced in kind. The fact that the house has had asphalt shingles in the past is also a factor as well as the fact that asphalt shingles are an approved material. He pointed out that this situation should be differentiated from one where the homeowner seeks to replace original materials (such as historic windows).

Steve felt that the wood shingles were a distinctive feature of the structure and should be retained.

Pam surveyed the roof materials in Shaker Village and argued that there were many asphalt roofs in place.

Richard also argued that there are many asphalt roofs in place and that the section of the design guidelines pertaining to roofing do not address this particular issue.

Brandon felt that the wood shingles should be retained and worried about a precedent being established allowing homeowners to change distinctive materials because of financial considerations. There was a discussion of what would happen if a homeowner with a slate roof wanted to remove it. It was felt that slate roofs are historic and have likely been in place since construction or at least for a long period of time and could be differentiated from this situation.

There was a motion to approve the application noting the extenuating circumstances and evidence that an asphalt roof had been in place in the past. The motion was carried 4 to 2 (Manny, Pam, George and Richard voted yes, Steve and Brandon voted no).

Public Hearing closed at 7:41

15 Old Littleton Road – Jamie Schwadel/Greg and Sarah Stoddard

Public Hearing opened at 7:42

Presentation opened

Presentation of application

Greg Schwadel presented

Reference was made to the MACRIS report and the history of the structure and early owners. Greg outlined the proposed changes which are all focused on the 1960's addition that connects the barn to the house. Greg talked about the custom wood true divided light windows that will be fabricated for the front of the house as well as the other changes described in the application including the new deck on the back, the removal of modern chimney, and raising the roof. There was some further discussion about the windows and the siding material (which will be retained and reused if possible or if not will be replaced in kind). There was also discussion about not painting the deck in the back in order to make it less visible since it will not be viewed against the house (as has been the case in other examples). Greg feels that he is a steward of this important house.

Presentation closed

Public Presentation opened

Public comments in favor:

Anne Butterfield, Old Littleton Road, was in favor of the project.

Public comments against:

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None

Public Participation closed

Commissioners' Deliberation and Vote

Brandon expressed appreciation for the careful planning that has gone into this proposal.

George was satisfied that the deck need not be painted the same color as the house.

There was a motion and unanimous vote to approve the project as proposed in the application.

Public Hearing closed at 8:11

NEW APPLICATIONS:

5 Old Littleton Road – Nick Boynton – Windows, Dormer, Barn, Sheds, Painting Screen Panels

Nick presented his application which has 5 components. The first is ask the commission to reconsider the design of the replacement windows (decided by unanimous vote at the March HHC meeting), the homeowner would prefer 2 over 2 windows instead of 6 over 6. Nick is also seeking permission to construct a dormer addition on the main structure, demolish the barn shed, add 2 new sheds to the property and change the color of the porch screen panels. There was a discussion regarding the windows with George maintaining that the decision was voted on as part of a public hearing and that there was no procedure for reconsidering decisions. Maryann Boynton (Nick's mother and an investor in the project) argued that the commission should reconsider based on photographs showing various window types on the house in the past. George pointed out that various options were considered for the design of the windows at the hearing and that the commission would not reconsider. Richard felt that the case could be reopened if there was new evidence. No new evidence was presented. It was decided that since there was not an issue in front of the commission to be decided, the matter would held until such time that an application was submitted.

There was discussion about whether the plans for the dormer were detailed enough to move to public hearing, Manny thought they were sufficient.

There was a motion that was unanimously approved to treat the dormers, barn shed demolition, and new sheds as substantial changes that would require a public hearing and to treat the painting of the porch screen panels to match the approved windows as non-applicable. George is the advocate for Nick and will continue to work with him to prepare for the public hearing.

13 Old Littleton Road – Anne Butterfield – New deck

After a discussion of the application for a new deck and requests for more detailed plans, there was a motion and unanimous vote to treat this as a substantial change that will require a public hearing. Richard is the advocate for Anne.

12 Old Boston Turnpike – Chris Schnier – kitchen addition

After a review of the plans for a kitchen addition there was a motion and unanimous vote to treat this as a substantial change that will require a public hearing. Pam is the advocate and will work with Chris to ensure that his application is complete.

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

37 Shaker Road – Alice Miles – in kind roof shingles replaced – non-applicable

87 Shaker Road –Robert Moran- in kind roof shingles replaced- non applicable

NEW BUSINESS:

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1. Review of Rules and Regulations (GT)
George reported that a new provision for “concept review” and other changes will be proposed at the June meeting.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of possible changes to Application for Certificate (SN)
This will be tabled for now.
2. Bromfield House discussion (MM & PM)
Select board adopted the Bromfield House Commission’s recommendation to retain the real estate and encourage the relocation of the house for 2 years after which it would be demolished. The Bromfield Trust trustees want the house to be sold and preserved. The attorneys are still considering options.
3. Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)
No update
4. Photo record of historic districts (GT)
The commons district has been photographed and the photos have been filed by address in electronic street files. George and Brandon to work on how to upload these to the town website.
5. 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)

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (RC) No updates

CPC (PM) Pam and Staci reported that the CPC considered having 2 award cycles per year to address emergency funding situations but decided to stay with 1 application cycle a year.

Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Planning Board (Staci) Planning Board is still looking for members for the design review board.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: June 2

MEETING ADJOURNED:

8:59 pm

DOCUMENTS:

Applications