

# 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 of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **Wednesday, April 7, 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  
Matthew McRae

## **MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:**

**AUDIENCE:** No members of the public attended other than the applicants.

## **TOPICS:**

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

**7:00 pm**

## **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

The minutes of March 3, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

**ONGOING APPLICATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

## **NEW APPLICATIONS:**

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

Application deferred at request of applicant due to illness.

### **15 Old Littleton Road – Jamie Schwadel – Various changes proposed mostly to 1970's addition**

Jamie Schwadel presented the application on behalf of property owners Greg and Sarah Stoddard. Jamie walked the commissioners through the changes which are mostly focused on a modern addition between the house and the barn and adding a deck. The addition was poorly constructed and has low ceilings. Commissioners asked to have additional information on proposed materials for the replacement windows and the deck floor and rails as well as more design details. Greg and Sarah are committed to restoring the house and appreciate its historical significance. There was a discussion concerning whether parts of the application could be insubstantial (for example replacing like materials) but it was decided that if part of the application required a public hearing the entire application would be considered as during the

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hearing. By unanimous vote it was decided that this is a significant change that will require a public hearing.

## **88 Shaker Road – Amy Paul - Roof**

Amy presented her application to replace her existing cedar roof with asphalt shingles. She explained that the current structure is a combination of an original Shaker built tailor shop and an addition added to the back by her parents. The cedar roof needs to be replaced and she proposes to switch to asphalt. There was discussion around roof replacement rules – sometimes treated as insubstantial but usually not on historic structures and especially when materials are to be changed. Amy agreed to leave sample shingles out for the commissioners to examine. Amy asked whether she should order the shingles and was informed that she should wait for a decision in case these shingles were not found to be appropriate. By unanimous vote it was decided that this is a significant change that will require a public hearing.

**NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Staci Donahue – Planning Board proposed Bylaw changes  
Staci discussed two bylaw amendments that will be proposed at the spring town meeting. 125-57 which would establish a framework for senior bylaws and 125-18.1 which would change the rules regarding accessory apartments and hopefully encourage more apartments to be built that would provide senior housing. Staci also mentioned that the Planning Board may appoint a Design Review Board (not active since 2017) and volunteers with architecture and historic design expertise are asked to volunteer.
2. Discussion of possible changes to Application for Certificate (SN)  
Steve led a discussion regarding the portions of the application that relate to the extension of the time to consider an application. These were inserted because of provisions in the bylaw regarding the time the HHC has to decide whether an application is necessary and to approve it. There was a decision to review the bylaw and the relevant sections of the application at the next meeting.

## **ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

1. Bromfield House discussion (MM & PM)  
The Bromfield House Commission has voted 4 to 2 to recommend to the Select Board that the Bromfield property be retained for future use and the house either be relocated or demolished. The Select Board will prepare a warrant for the town to consider at the spring town meeting. There will be a meeting with the Select Board to present these findings and Pam will ensure that the HHC position that the property be sold with the house intact and preserved will be presented.
2. Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)  
George will continue to investigate the possibility of offering home owners a process to add their homes to one of the districts (or create a new one)
3. HHC information packet for district homeowners – update and finale (BL and PM)  
This project is now complete and Brandon and Pam were thanked for their efforts to get the packets to homeowners in the districts.

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4. Herb House (ML)

Manny relayed that the CPC would not guarantee matching funds if the Commonwealth approved the grant for repairs to the Shaker Herb House. Without this assurance the grant would not be approved. Manny made a motion that the grant be tabled for this year which was unanimously approved. The funding will be sought again next year. There was a discussion of alternative plans for the structure if the town will not expend funds to preserve it including selling the property or relocating it to a Shaker museum.

5. Photo record of historic districts (GT)

George reported that the photographic documentation of the Harvard Common Historic District will be completed soon and that the Shaker Village District would be undertaken next fall when the leaves come off the trees.

6. Department of Transportation - widening route 110/111 from Dunkin Donuts to Ayer town line (PM)

Pam has a copy of the study that was sent to the HHC regarding this project. The project will not cross either of the historic districts. Commissioners will review the plans and relay any concerns at the next meeting. Manny asked whether any archeology had been done.

7. 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)** Richard will report after the next meeting on the completion date

**CPC (PM)** The proposed budget is being finalized to be voted on at town meeting

**Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)** Pam has been asked to serve as liaison to this new committee which will seek funding for non-vehicular travel including hiking trails, pathways and sidewalks – Staci serves on this as well.

**Planning Board (Staci)**

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:** May 5, 2021

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

**8:30 pm**

## DOCUMENTS:

Applications

Notes from planning board re bylaw proposals

Dept. of Transportation plans