

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 a public hearing and regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **Wednesday, June 2, 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:

Emily Granstaf, SusanMary Redinger, Linda Dwight, Tom Murphy, Aron Clark, Bev Rodriguez, Chris Schnier, Dorothy Oja

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:02 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of May 5, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote

ONGOING APPLICATION:

5 Old Littleton Road – Nick Boynton – Dormer, Barn, Sheds (delayed until June 9 because notice was not sent within prescribed period)

13 Old Littleton Road – Anne Butterfield – New deck (on hold at applicant's request)

PUBLIC HEARING:

12 Old Boston Turnpike – Chris Schnier – Kitchen addition

Public Hearing opened at 7:14

Presentation opened

Presentation of application

Chris Schnier presented his application for a kitchen addition. He does not have a contractor for the project and does not expect to proceed until next spring. He has not selected final materials including windows. There was some discuss as to which windows might be used and an agreement that they would need to be simulated or true divided light.

Presentation closed

Public Presentation opened

Public comments in favor:

Aron Clark thought the addition was consistent with the evolution of the structure.

Public comments against:

None

Commissioners' comments and questions:

Manny asked about windows. Matt talked about the evolution of the house which began as a small

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structure and has been added onto over the years, he would prefer wood windows and did not think the skylight was appropriate. Steve asked about windows, Chris stated that the side windows and the basement windows have been deleted from the project. Steve asked if the profile of the skylight could be lowered. George asked about the size of the addition (8 X 12) vs the size of the existing house. There was discussion about what would be visible from the road and whether this design was compatible with the growth of the house and how it would “meet” the existing house. There was further discussion about the skylight.

Public Participation closed

Commissioners’ Deliberation and Vote

The commissioners discussed several options as to how to proceed as the applicant did not have a materials list. It was decided to vote on the design and ask the applicant to return with a materials list before proceeding. The consensus was that this addition would be a good transition between the old and new portions of the structure. By unanimous vote the design for the addition (including the windows that have been deleted from the plan) was approved with the condition that the applicant return with final plans and a materials list that will need to be approved before construction can begin.

Public Hearing closed 7:40

NEW APPLICATIONS:

None

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

5 Fairbank Street Martin chimney repair non-applicable certificate

It was observed that the applicant should not have been given a non-applicable certificate because the chimneys are being removed and reconstructed with new brick – not merely repointed (which might be considered non-applicable or insubstantial). It was agreed that the chair will refrain from issuing non-applicable certificates except in very clear cases and will refer these requests to the commission at its next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bromfield School construction update – Steve took the minutes for this section
The Commission was notified by a town resident of possible changes to the HES project outside of the original certificate.

Linda Dwight, school superintendent, deferred to SusanMary Redinger [school committee project manager] to describe what has changed. SusanMary introduced Emily Grandstaff of Arrowstreet who presented a summary of changes that were made outside of the Certificate of Appropriateness. Per Emily’s presentation, the following items were changed without returning to the Commission for review.

Granite Curbing – changed to sloped asphalt for cost savings

Playground – changed size

Paved Plaza – reduced in size

Removed Retaining Wall – field stone – was changed to concrete due to cost

Center sidewalk changed from concrete to asphalt

Enlarged alternate playground instead

Changed granite curbing to concrete curb to save money

Changed granite wall near Mass Ave to sloping gravel

Canopy added to the building

Island parking area – precast concrete curbing added plus sloped gravel



Generator – added but never reviewed by HHC

Electrical Transfer box – never reviewed by HHC

PE Storage Shed – temporary location; permanent location not specified. Never reviewed by HHC

Brandon asked for clarity as to why this entire discussion was presented. Pam reiterated that we were notified by a resident to the possible changes. Resident Aron Clarke asked what material was used for the main sidewalk – asphalt or concrete. There was discussion about whether the materials were changed from asphalt to concrete or if that was the original plan. There was confusion on this question.

Linda Dwight reiterated that she handed off the role of project chair to SusanMary when construction began.

Emily explained that the generator was added later in the project and needed to be close to the electrical room. Tom Murphy of Arrowstreet stated that the generator was not in the original application.

George stated that the School Committee did not respect the HHC and did not come back with changes. He stated that the HHC could take 10% of the responsibility but the School Committee should have come back to us.

{Note: Steve's connection to the meeting was lost for this portion of the conversation and he did not participate for a period} Matt stated that the residents of the district are held to certain expectations and that the school went around the process. Richard asked why no one came back to us. Linda Dwight stated that Steve Nigzus was the liaison to the School Building Committee and his attending the meetings was sufficient as a link back to the commission. Tom Murphy stated that they just lost track of time and neglected to come back to the HHC. Steve stated that he was liaison during the review process – not a project monitor. He also pointed out that the generator looks like a sore thumb.

Linda asked how to step back in to solve the generator and the transformer box. SusanMary stated that they looked into screening. Emily said that the transformer box on Mass Ave was removed. The School Building Committee is willing to come back to propose a solution. Commissioners weighed in on options and this would be discussed at a future meeting. Emily stated that all changes have been stated and none others are anticipated. The School Building Committee will return to a future meeting to discuss the generator.

2. Elections

This topic was deferred until the next meeting.

3. Discuss periodic review of approved Certificates with progress reports from Project Inspectors (GT)

George will prepare a spreadsheet to track approved projects and the name of the commissioner who serves as inspector – this will be reviewed periodically and inspectors will report on progress until the project is completed.

4. 2 Littleton Road – Steve Nigzus – Renewal of Certificate

Steve asked for a renewal of the Certificate that was approved in March 2015 allowing for new gutters, shutters and granite posts. The granite posts have not yet been installed. An extension was granted by unanimous vote (Steve and George abstained).

5. 5 Elm Street – Scott Hayward –Extension of certificate

Scott Hayward asked for an extension of his certificate which is due to expire in August. By unanimous vote

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the certificate was extended for 2 years.

6. Review of Preservation Standards – (GT)

George directed the commissioners to Preservation Standards on pages 9 and 10 of the Design Guidelines (which are derived from the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Prosperities) and suggested that every proposed project include a review of the standards in addition to the section of the Guidelines that pertains to the specific project.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Review of Rules and Regulations (GT & RC) - New provision for concept review and other procedural changes
George reviewed the proposed changes that had been discussed at the prior meeting. The changes were approved by unanimous vote and will be included in an updated version of the Rules to be filed with the Town Clerk. Richard proposed changes to the Rules which were discussed. The commissioners agreed with the concept of the changes but asked that the language be modified. Richard will work on this for the next meeting.
2. Bromfield House discussion (MM & PM)
Commission has been disbanded. Park & Rec has been asked for possible uses of the land assuming the structure is removed.
3. Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)
On hold
4. Shaker Herb House grant application with CPC- fall town meeting
CPC needs notice of the intention to request a grant for the fall in the prior spring. If the request is approved in the fall HHC would apply for a grant.
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:

1. Letter regarding Shaker meeting house shutters
Mark Sevigny asked about the shutters that were apparently removed from the shaker meeting house before it was sold. Pam has sent a letter to the new owner asking about the shutters.
2. Letter regarding widening of Ayer Road at South Shaker
Pam was made aware that the Conservation Trust has questioned the impact of the project on the property at the corner of Ayer and South Shaker Roads where parts of a stone foundation from a demolished barn are located. No action required.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (RC)

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CPC (PM)

Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Planning Board (Staci)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Aron Clark: Was surprised by elements of the school project and felt that input should have been sought from HHC during the process, is concerned about the retaining walls.

Bev Rodriguez: Spoke about Bromfield House, wants it preserved, feels that groups should be formed to get involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

MEETING ADJOURNED:

9:05 pm

DOCUMENTS:

Application

Letter from Sevigny