

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 regular meeting of the Harvard Historical Commission, held via Zoom, on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 7 pm.**

Submitted by George Triantaris, Secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pam Marston (Chair)
Steve Nigzus (Vice Chair)
George Triantaris (Secretary)
Richard Cabelus
Brandon Loughery
Matthew McRae

MEMBERS IN ABSENTIA:

Emanuel Lindo

AUDIENCE:

Linda Dwight, Tom Murphy

TOPICS:

CALL TO ORDER:

7:00 pm

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The minutes of the June 2, 2021 and June 23, 2021 meetings were approved by unanimous vote

ONGOING APPLICATIONS:

13 Old Littleton Road – Anne Butterfield – New deck (on hold)

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW APPLICATIONS: None

NEW APPLICATIONS APPROVED: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

1. Hildreth School construction update

Linda Dwight spoke on this topic with occasional information from Tom Murphy (project manager). Linda stated that there had been a meeting with the landscape architect after consulting with several neighbors to determine how to provide some screening for the generator and the transformer. They propose to plant 5 rhododendrons around the transformer and 9 around the generator. There was a discussion of whether to use medium or large size plants and how much coverage this would provide. There was also a discussion about the shed that was not on the plans and is being used to store physical education materials. It is not compatible with the new school structure. There was a discussion about whether to move the shed out of the district (to the Broomfield School). George stated that he wished to clarify for the record the course of events regarding the responsibility for informing the HHC of changes in the plans as there was confusion during the last meeting. He read excerpts from minutes of past meetings during which the Hildreth application had been considered as follows:

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August 8, 2018

Modifications will have to be made as the project progresses The application – if approved - would endorse the overall design with the provision that the HHC would continue to be consulted on significant design modifications.

September 5, 2018

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the application as submitted with the agreement that input would be sought from the HHC on exterior details as they evolved, consistent with the discussion in the August 8 meeting and the June 27 agreement.

George pointed out that it is the applicant's responsibility to return to the commission with proposed changes. Linda acknowledged that the school committee had not come to the HHC with proposed changes as they occurred and apologized for this. Steve pointed out that there were 10 such changes as indicated on the materials that Emily had presented at the last meeting. He also stated that his internet connection had failed during the last meeting but he had watched the proceedings later and objected to Linda's statement that he was the project liaison and should have attended the school committee meetings to monitor changes. He was the liaison during the application process but not after it was approved. Linda acknowledged this.

Linda asked where the historic district lines fell on the Hildreth property. George stated that if any part of the structure is in the district the whole structure is deemed to be within it. However, the property did extend outside the district. There was a discussion as to whether the shed could be moved to the other side of the property. George suggested that to do so would not be acting in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation between the committees. Linda agreed and it was voted unanimously that the shed should be moved off the Hildreth property (and out of the district). There was a discussion as to whether the school committee should be asked to amend its application to reflect the changes that have been made. It was felt that this would not be productive given the effort involved in preparing and reviewing the application and the fact that the changes have already been made. The rhododendrons will be planted in the fall. The larger plants are preferred for the generator and smaller for the transformer. Linda will inform the commission of the decision of the budget committee.

2. Discuss periodic review of approved Certificates with progress reports from Project Inspectors (GT)
George presented a chart to track key dates in the application and approval process to ensure that the commission meets deadlines and is able to work effectively with applicants. He will populate the chart with approved certificates and then maintain it going forward.
3. Review of Rules and Regulations (RC) - New provisions proposed
Richard reviewed proposed new rules to be added to the Rules and Regulations at Section 5 (2) and Section 5 (4) (d). These related to the burden of proof for applications and requests for further information. These rules were found to be desirable additions and were approved by unanimous vote. George reviewed a proposed new rule to be added at Section 5 (6) regarding the 14-day rule. This was also found to be a desirable addition and was approved by unanimous vote.
4. Bromfield House discussion (MM & PM)
It was agreed that the commission would stay abreast of any plans to discuss or vote on this topic at the town meeting to be held in October. Once it is known what the Select Board plans to propose, the commission will determine how to weigh in and express an opinion on the future of the Bromfield House.

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5. Elections

Brandon acted as chair for this topic. George indicated that Richard had agreed to take over as secretary, Pam stated that she did not wish to continue as chair and she nominated George. She would be happy to take over the vice chair role. Steve assented to this change. The slate of George as chair, Pam as vice chair and Richard as secretary was approved by unanimous vote.

6. Shaker Meeting House shutters

Pam lost her connection and could not report. George took over as chair for the rest of the meeting.

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)

Possible expansion of historic districts (GT and RC)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Monument Committee (RC)

CPC (PM)

Transportation Advisory Committee (PM)

Planning Board (Staci)

There were no reports from the liaisons, however, by unanimous vote Richard was appointed as the liaison to the planning board and Matt was appointed as the liaison to the monument committee (to replace Richard).

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: August 4

MEETING ADJOURNED:

7:46 pm

DOCUMENTS:

Drawings and plans regarding Hildreth project