

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common, Upper "Loft" Room

Wednesday Evening Jan 8, 2014 at 7:00 PM

"Oversee modifications to the Harvard Common and Shaker Village Historic Districts in accordance with the state and local bylaws, and generally support historic preservation in Harvard."

Members present : Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Sherry Graham, Pam Marston, Ron Ostberg, Moe Dancause, John Martin

Member absent: Chris Cutler

Library trustee: Marty Green

Minutes

The minutes for December were corrected. The vote to accept was unanimous.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

Application for a new Library Sign

The Commission decided at their January meeting that this application is "INSUBSTANTAIL". The application notes that the library trustees would like to put a new sign at the Library where the current sign is located. The new sign would be in landscape orientation. There was a discussion on where it is situated near the building. Ron wants the posts to be redesigned to "pull in" the Old Bromfield architecture. Marty said that the original design was for wrought iron but that was changed to wooden posts. There has been library trustee discussion for three years on the design. Ron suggested that Marty get some other ideas for the posts. The composition could be a man-made material. There was a suggestion to add finials and make the posts black. The Commission decided to postpone a decision on the application until next month. It was suggested that Marty take our discussion back to the trustees. A motion was made to table the application. The vote was unanimous.

Powder House Restoration

There are two quotes for the restoration; one for \$31, 500 and another for \$14,500. The second one does not include documentation of the original structure, the cost of which is \$3000. The insurance company for the driver who caused the damage has been contacted. Ken asked the commission to support a transfer of \$3,000 from Fin Com to HHC. He asked for HHC member approval to move the funds. The Commission discussed planning the project and designated the chair as their representative to request from Fin Com the sum of \$3,000 for documentation of the powder House essential to its restoration. The vote was unanimous. We expect the Fin Com will approve the transfer. Hopefully by Mar 1 documentation will be done.

Town Hall Renovation

Ron and Ken updated the commissioners on the Selectman's discussions of TH renovation.

Ongoing Projects

a. A CPC application to remove trees around the outside of the Shaker burial ground. On Jan 18 the CPC will start reviewing the applications received. Joe or Ken will contact Lucy to let her know what we are doing.

b. Hildreth House repairs: Ken wrote a letter of support for the renovations of Hildreth House noting that the windows would not need town approval whereas the wheel chair lift, the handicap accessible kitchen sink, the porch improvements and a second floor handicap accessible bathroom would.

c. Historic plaque program: Pam will talk to Lorraine Leonard about how homeowners may pay for the signs they order. According to our guidelines synthetic signs are not appropriate. Joe will draft some language for the Design Guidelines for signs and John and Ron will review that draft language with Joe for our next meeting.

d. Proposed stone wall repair in front of library: Chris will ask Robert Adam if he will be a consultant for the rebuild, Joe Schmidt will look into the highway easement and Ron will research the history of the wall. The plan is to take a piece out of the wall so Robert Adam can look at it to assess it.

e. Reports from liaisons to:

CPC (John) Master Plan same as last time. They have a contractor who is already working.

HCC (Moe) nothing to report

f. Establishing HHC Operating Guidelines: we will discuss section 3.2 next meeting

g. Enhancing the HHC application form (Ken)nothing new

Other business:

1. The HHC website has had lots of visitors.

2. Mass Historical Society has updated the inventories for Harvard's historic assets on its MACRIS database. Joe has updated our Local Register to include the new inventories.

3. Commissioners discussed whether the Commission should endorse new maps. We have old maps from 1974 and 1976 which are hand drawn and do not show much detail. We need new maps that show greater detail and that are consistent with the current maps used by other town organizations. The Commission needs to review its options and make a decision on how to proceed. Joe indicated that the website currently shows three different sets of District maps. (1)the official maps that were prepared in the 1970's and currently referenced by our Chapter 48 bylaws, (2) a set of maps that was produced by the Montachusett Regional Planning Council (MRPC) for the HHC 6 years ago, and (3) a draft set that is based on the Assessors' current maps.

Joe prepared these maps to simply illustrate what those maps would look like. (See HHC website: <http://hhcommission.wordpress.com/historic-assets/historic-districts/>)

4. Ken will send us a draft for the Town Report of what the Commission considered this past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: Feb 5, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Marston, Secretary