

Subject to Revision and Official Vote

Downtown Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 30, 2015

6:15 p.m. Site Visit

6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting

Town Hall, 334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Site Visit 6:15 p.m.: Corner of Railroad St. and Main St. to view the proposed location of the clock to be donated by James Mercer.

Members Present: Don Howe, Barbara Syer, Holly Troiano, James Mercer, Dan Bailly, and Alternate Abby Schroeder.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.

Members Present:

Don Howe

Barbara Syer

Holly Troiano

James Mercer

Dan Bailly

Abby Schroeder-Alternate

- Consideration of the minutes of the May meeting. Motion to approve by J. Mercer, second by B. Syer. Ayes: D. Howe, B. Syer, H. Troiano, J. Mercer. Abstained, D. Bailly.
- B. Syer made a motion to open a public hearing, second by D. Bailly. Meeting opened at 6:40 p.m.

Note: J. Mercer participated in the public hearing as the representative of Westgood Realty and not in his capacity as an HDC member.

Mr. Mercer gave a brief presentation about the clock to be donated that included its inspiration, location, and description. Mr. Mercer noted that Westgood Realty would be paying for the installation and electric and provided a street map with specs for the clock. Mr. Mercer has applied for and received approval from Design Advisory.

Public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

The regular meeting continued with the Chair noting that this application called for a "Certificate of Hardship" rather than a "Certificate of Appropriateness" due to the fact that the HDC does not approve reproductions. The clock comes to the HDC as part of our purview of street scape.

Findings: The HDC approves of the clock and its placement even though we believe it may not be strictly in our purview of street scape. We further find that the proposed clock offers no detriment to the district.

D. Bailly made a motion to issue a certificate of Hardship to Westgood Realty to provide and install the proposed clock according to the specs presented. B. Syer seconds the motion. Vote is unanimously in favor and the motion carried. Those voting: B. Syer, D. Howe, D. Bailly, H. Troiano, and A. Schroeder, alternate as J. Mercer was not eligible to vote.

Note: Jim Mercer returned to the meeting in his capacity of HDC member.

- Discussion about the current situation with the Historic Markers: J. Mercer noted that the locations for the first three markers are on the lower right of each building. Chair Howe suggested that the markers for Town Hall and the two libraries be dedicated at the same time the time capsule from Bryant School is buried next to the WWI monument at Town Hall. The Chair also noted that A and A Monuments would be doing the work and should be recognised in some way.
- Discussion about a proposed bulletin board to be placed next to the handicapped entrance at Town Hall. The bulletin board would be covered and used, for the most part, to post 24 hour notices. Currently, 24 hour notices are posted at the Police Station which is not convenient for most people. The request came from Town Clerk, Marie Ryan. A. Schroeder noted that the handicapped sign near the entrance looks as if it were a parking spot not the handicapped entrance.

D. Bailly made a motion to attach the proposed bulletin board to the wall by the handicapped entrance to Town Hall and write a letter from the HDC to the Town Manager suggesting the handicapped sign for the entrance be moved and a directional sign/post be added for clarity. The motion was seconded by H. Troiano. The vote was unanimously approved. Voting: D. Howe, D. Bailly, B. Syer, H. Troiano, and J. Mercer.

- Discussion about the annual budget: We are waiting to see how much the pedestal retouch and waxing of the Winged Victory statue will cost.

- The Mason Library has asked to put up a temporary “mailbox” structure that will function as a free book exchange. No permit is needed. A motion was made by H. Troiano to send a letter in favor of the “mailbox”. Seconded by D. Bailly, the vote was unanimous in favor of the “mailbox” letter. Voting: D. Howe, D. Bailly, H. Troiano, B. Syer, J. Mercer.
- Election of officers: D. Bailly was elected Chair, D. Howe was elected Vice Chair, and Holly Troiano was elected Secretary. Note: D. Howe will attend the monthly Chair meetings.
- There will be no meeting in August.
- D. Bailly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by H. Troiano. Vote was unanimous in favor. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, B. Syer, J. Mercer. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly M. Troiano
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Secretary, H.D.C.