

Harvard Historical Commission

April 1, 2008

Present: Jonathan Feist (chair), Jim Breslauer, Doug Coots, Chris Cutler, Susan Frechette, John Martin, Rudy Minar(after 8:20)

Absent: Roseanne Saalfield, Rhonda Sprague

Meeting called to order at 7:40, a quorum being present.

Old Business:

- Community Preservation Commission membership slot to replace Feist; discussed last time but no action taken. After Feist described the duties, Chris Cutler agreed to serve, and was appointed by a 5-0 vote (Cutler abstaining, Minar not yet arrived).
- Minutes from March, 2008, submitted by Chris Cutler, and approved 6-0.
- Opening of a Public Hearing on a Shaker Herb Drying House door replacement by the North Bennet St. School was approved 6-0 at 8:00 pm. No comments were received in writing and no members of the public were present to comment on this hearing. Hearing was closed at 8:05 by same 6-0 vote.

Discussion of this application: Coots had exchanged e-mail with Robert Adam of North Bennet regarding the use of Eastern white pine in a wet environment. He argued that HHC should also remove the flagstones from the now-demolished porch addition, and trench 12x12 across with crushed stone to improve drainage.

It was moved and approved 6-0 that the application be granted a Certificate of Appropriateness, with the attachment to the certificate of the email from R. Adam to Coots explaining the choice of wood.

New Business:

- New application: Application, received March 8 by Town Clerk, from Marc Sevigny regarding 101 South Shaker Road, seeking to add a window to the ell connecting the wash house to the dwelling house. This application was unanimously (6-0) voted *substantial*, and a public hearing was scheduled for 7:45 pm, May 6. Further information was requested regarding the current windows, particularly the muntin contour.

Applicant explained that the two extant windows on that level of the ell are not the same. From an interior point of view, it's desirable to align with the more distant window (it's in the same room, and he seeks to align with the interior chair rail).

Applicant stated that the old muntins are "sharper" and the new Brosco are heavier. Doug Coots said that he would correspond via e-mail with Sevigny about this, and obtained Sevigny's address (msevigny@charter.net).

- Jonathan re chairmanship: He needs load-sharing, notably mailings. If a "corresponding secretary," or some equivalent thereof, can be found, he is willing to remain as chair.

Activities List:

- The Building Inspector, Gabe Vellante, looked at the new maps. He would prefer it if Historical District boundaries followed property boundaries, but that would require a Town Meeting vote; new maps are simply the maps adopted by TM, reinterpreted with more detail.
- Shaker Cemetery.

Ideas: money to get an assessment, e.g. Getty Foundation. WPI has a “science and society” requirement that might get workers. Fruitlands might know of fund sources.

Frechette offered to work on this, but warned that her new job may interfere (she's commuting to Hartford).

A Bromfield student is doing photographs of the markers as a community service project.

- Rules and Procedures document by Rudy Minar.

Discussion deferred to the next meeting. Minar plans to send out the latest revised draft before then.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03

Minutes submitted by John Martin May 6, 2008; revised May 15, 2008