

## Harvard Historical Commission

May 5, 2008

**Present:** Jim Breslauer, Chris Cutler, John Martin (acting Chair), Rhonda Sprague, Rudy Minar(after 8:20)

**Absent:** Jonathan Feist (Chair), Doug Coots, Susan Frechette, Roseanne Saalfield

No quorum was present for a presentation by Leo Blair of the Selectmen at 7:00:

The Selectmen want to put eight picnic tables beside the General Store. He does not plan for these to be attached, and so they do not need HHC C. of A., (he had a letter on that from Town Counsel) but wants the HHC to comment and help choose the design. He showed three styles, two octagonal four-seat tables that could have a shade umbrella in their centers, and a more conventional wood picnic table (unclear if this would involve eight tables, since this style can typically seat more than four). The General Store, Blair said, had agreed to handle the trash.

Old Business:

- Opening of a Public Hearing on a Shaker Herb Drying House door replacement by the North Bennet St. School was approved unanimously (4-0; Minar not yet present) at 7:35 pm. No comments were received in writing and no members of the public were present to comment on this hearing. Hearing was closed at 7:46 by unanimous (4-0) 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. Adam 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 approved 5-0 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:

- Jim Lee appeared on behalf of Park and Rec to talk about a decayed wooden bench located on the Common near Elm St. This bench had been originally placed without a Certificate of Appropriateness, Martin informed him, so an application to the HHC would be required to replace it. Some discussion of the matter ensued, with Martin expressing his concerns both about the presence of any bench, and the proliferation of styles around the Common, with two similar-but-different iron-and-wood benches near Still River Road (one from the Garden Club, one from the Harvard Conservation Trust) and the Selectmen proposing to add other seating beside the General Store.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03

Minutes submitted by John Martin

DRAFT