

August 4, 2009

Minutes of the Harvard Historic Commission

Members present: D. Coots, J. Feist, J. Martin, R. Minar, L. Horowitz, R. Saalfield, J. Wollaston

Members absent: R. Sprague

Meeting called to order : 6: 30 p.m.

Mike Volmar, Curator of Fruitlands Museum, presented the museum's application to the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) for the conservation of objects 'directly related to the history of the town of Harvard'. The objects that FM wants to conserve are documents. FM would like the HHC to function as a sponsoring body for their request for 15k in funds for the conservation for between 15 – 30 documents. Detailed specifications of the work to be performed have been completed. At 7:31 members unanimously supported FM's request for funding support.

R. Saalfield presented a re-cap of the restoration of the Shaker Burial Ground project. Visitor Volmar remained for this portion of the meeting and said that as a curator he would ask our consultant to design a lab analysis of all the paint layers on each marker so that something useful and educational flows from this part of the project. The committee voted unanimously to engage the services of Jennifer Campbell-Horne to write a request for proposal for this project. Saalfield will contact both of our consultant candidates and tell J C-H that the HHC will file a funding request in September (for vote at ATM 2010) for the monies needed to cover the first phase of this project. Unless another funding source is discovered before those funds are voted and released J C-H will not be able to begin work before Spring, 2010.

D. Coots presented his and John Martin's research on the project of creating signs for the town's two historic districts. R. Saalfield, who is the HHC contact with the sign maker (Crosby Design, W. Concord), has explored with Crosby the option of having each of the Common's historic signs contain different facts about each district. Members ordered their preferences for the verbiage on each sign. Coots will re-format, send this work to Saalfield and she will get the signs to Bill Crosby for the first round of design by his staff.

Audrey Sampson, who lives in Harvard, attended the HHC meeting to discuss the newly installed stop sign on the south side of Still River Road on the edge of the parking lot at the General Store. Sampson, who was at the meeting as a private citizen, has experience in signage and spoke of her disappointment at the number of signs that are proliferating in the town. MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) rules regulate the size and placement of signs so that they are installed safely. Alternatives to the sign installed in a bright yellow striped barrel that is in place now might be, she said, a break-away post sunk into the ground (whose top falls on impact but whose post does not). Coots spoke to the issue of addressing other safety features that are lacking on the Common (traffic islands, for example). Minar referenced the traffic safety done within the last decade that suggested that pedestrian and vehicular traffic could be installed that made the movement (and stopping) of traffic controlled by more prominent sign. R. Saalfield suggested that it might be more productive in the long term to form a group – a member of the former Traffic Study Committee, once chaired by Jim Elkind (Slough Rd.), a member of the BOS, a member of the HHC – that would work in a collegial manner with the Dept of Public Works to create a plan that is both safe and attractive. Failing that an initial effort might be to contact Leo Blair, our BOS liaison, and ask for his support while we research the town master plan and the rules and regulations that govern signing such as this. Coots and Horowitz agreed to work on this project together. Visitor Sampson also offered to be helpful to the HHC's efforts in this regard.

- The Hildreth House basement door is finished, C. Cutler reports.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseanne Saalfield

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