

April 6 2010

Minutes of the Harvard Historic Commission

Members present: D. Coots, C. Cutler, J. Feist, R. Minar, R. Saalfield

Members absent: L. Horowitz, J. Martin, R. Sprague, J. Wollaston

Meeting adjourned at : 7 : 35 p.m.

- Shaker Village resident Mark Sevigny attended the meeting to announce that he is participating in a trail clean up day at the Holy Hill conservation site. Sevigny is wondering if members of the HHC would like their perspective represented to this volunteer work group for those parcels of land that are within the district (Holy Hill and Maple Lane, for example). Members agreed that our being actively involved in the neighbors' plans for up-keep of this area would be a good idea. Sevigny will keep us informed.
- Coots made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting, as amended, and this motion was unanimously accepted.
- Coots and Cutler brought a sample sign, attached to a PT post, to show commissioners. They suggest that they attach all signs to their posts and that the signs be set with the bottom edge 6 ft from the ground. Saalfield will suggest to DPW head Rich Nota that a member of our commission be present for at least the installation of the first sign. Saalfield will draft a press release and contact the Harvard Press with hopes of garnering some publicity for the signing effort.
- R. Minar distributed the most recent draft of the commission's new 'Application for Certificate' form. Commissioners unanimously accepted the form as presented. Feist will send the form to town counsel, Mark Lanza, for his review.
- Commissioners re-visited the topic of signs that might be affixed to historic houses, both within and outside of the district. Out of the discussion came the idea that it might be best to source sign makers, design options for signs and present property owners with the option of buying one of these signs through the commission. The commission could mark up the price of the sign and use the proceeds of this effort for future projects. Cutler and Minar will research this further. It was agreed that a committee would be formed to consider this and other profit making ventures the HHC might be involved with.
- Coots updated commissioners on the municipal buildings task force who feel the effort to date has been a great success. A committee (as opposed to a task force) will be formed to work for the next year on studying two potential uses for the old library. A pilot program would be created to test whether the town will execute and support a community center (not exclusively running arts events and programs). The other option would be to study the use of the

old library as a rent-generating enterprise, perhaps for use by small corporate entities. Town Hall would continue to be used for town offices (a renovation and addition would be needed) and the Upper Town Hall would be returned to a theatre and performance space. An article will appear on this year's town warrant asking for 75k for use in writing an RFP for these projects and costing out the work that would have to be done to all these buildings for any of these projects. Hildreth House would be used for the Council on Aging. A 'space inventory' would be created and software would be designed or sourced which could manage the use of all available town space. Another team would search for grants that could help fund this work. Coots will work on the Town Hall project, perhaps as leader.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseanne Saalfield