

Harvard Historical Commission - Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2011, 7:03pm

Members Present: Roseanne Saalfeld, Jonathan Feist, Ken Swanton, Rhonda Sprague, Pam Marston, John Martin, Doug Coots. Chris Cutler arrived at 7:30.

Guests present: Janet Valenti, Tim Bragan, Marie Sobalvarro, Peter Warren, Janet Beaty, George Watkins.

Members absent: Jarod Wollaston

September 7th Meeting Minutes were discussed and unanimously accepted.

1. Janet V. described her application to the CPC for funds to preserve important old books containing Town Records, seeking sponsorship from the HHC. She brought in an example of another book which had been preserved using the same technique - dismantle, pH adjust the pages and reassemble pages in protective sleeves, bound in wire binder.

Jonathan asked if these records, once preserved will be made available to the public for viewing. Janet responded that, no, this was not the purpose of the procedure, although each page is scanned and captured on Microfiche and 35mm film. They can be seen upon request, but they reside in the Town Vault which is not a public space at Town Hall.

Doug asked if documents fell under HHC jurisdiction. Jonathan thought that they did. It was decided to postpone a vote on this matter until next month.

2. Tim B. explained that the CPC funded effort to address preservation of Town Hall's South facade has been postponed until next spring, upon recommendation of the MBC and the BOS, in order to better coordinate this work with the ongoing overall renovation project which will be entering into Schematic Design in November.

He further explained that a paint analysis will be done soon and the information acquired shared with the MBC and their architect.

3. Marie S. described a CPC Application submitted by the BOS (with assistance from the MBC) seeking \$1M in the form of a bond, to fund future work on Town Hall. They have determined that this approach to funding large capital projects through CPC funding is often done in other Towns in the Commonwealth. A motion to accept, seconded and passed unanimously.

4. John M. handed out his draft for an amendment to the Design Guidelines for solar collectors. Fundamental to his research is the recommendation from the State that Historic Districts be encouraged to support energy related technologies into Districts, but that we do not have to accept them.

Jonathan worries that the draft guidelines as written encourage too strongly and that allowing solar arrays on rooftops will diminish the historic character of Harvard. It was agreed that each of us should send comments directly to John, without including others in any communication and that we would take the matter up at our next regular meeting.

5. Warner Application for 99 South Shaker Road. This is a land based PV Solar Array, measuring approx. 11' H x 13' x 15', and located approx. 690' (line of sight) from the public way. Motion to find the application Insubstantial, reasons - array not on an historic structure, a great distance from roadway and a relatively small array - motion seconded and approved, one nay vote.

6. Watkins Application for 96 Shaker Road. A nine panel (approx. 30" x 60" each) roof top array on an outbuilding behind the main house approximately 460' from the public way. Moreover, the site line is up a hill which further reduces the array's visibility from the road. Motion to find the application Insubstantial, reasons - array not on an historic structure, a great distance from roadway and a relatively small array - motion seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Beaty Application for 5 Oak Hill Road. A 22 panel PV Array on a dormer roof on the barn next to the house. Motion to find the application Substantial, seconded and approved. The HHC will review the Application on October 24th in a special meeting.

Doug offered to provide a pictorial representation of the installation so that the Commissioners can better understand the visual impact of a sizable array within the District.

8. On October 23rd, at 1:30 in the afternoon, Ken will lead interested perambulators on an Historic tour of the Town Center District. There will be refreshments afterwards at the Old Library.

9. Ken will speak to the Cemetery Commission about another painting approach re recently heard about when talking to a friend who restores cars. There was additional inconclusive discussion in the group about whether the HHC should create a Warrant Article for next spring's ATM seeking to change the By Laws to include burial markers specifically as "structures" protected by HHC review.

10. With Jarod resigning as Commissioner, we are looking for a replacement. Any suggestions are welcomed. A notice will be placed on the Town Website. A letter will be placed in the Press.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Coots

