

Minutes of the Harvard Historical Commission

November 8, 2011

Regular Meeting at Town Hall (Rescheduled due to weather)

Meeting called to order: 7:03 p.m.

Present: R Saalfield (chair), C. Cutler, J. Feist, D.Coots, P. Marston, K. Swanton, R. Sprague , J. Martin

Alternate Martin acts for the vacant seat

Absent: C. Cutler

Audience Attendees: Janet Vallente (applicant), Barbara Hadad (candidate)

1. Brief discussion about HHC member candidates, and R. Saalfield recounted the difficulties in scheduling all interested parties to come before us. General consensus is to interview both interested candidates (possibly a third) before making a recommendation to the BoS.

2. Review minutes of the 10/5 and 10/24 meetings (DC).

3. Cemetery CP Proposal. R. Sprague said that the Cemetery Commission was delayed in getting their application accepted until they had found a sponsor. Saalfield clarified that no such decision was made by the HHC (to decline sponsoring this application), and that the message she was to relay was a recommendation that they contact the Conservation Commission instead.

J. Martin moved that we accept the minutes. Both accepted unanimously without modification. Alternate Feist acted as a voting member for this vote only.

4. Discussed CPC sponsorship request presented for records conservation (continued from October) by town clerk Janet Vallente.

J. Martin expressed concern about laserfiche and the vendor doing the service. J. Vallente said that there are plans to move to

lazerfiche in the future. She clarified that not all books are cut from the binding.

(Note: C. Cutler arrived), so J. Feist returned to being an alternate.

J Feist expressed concerns that the artifact value of the books is getting lost in this process, and cited a discussion with a book conservator who ballparked the cash value of these books at \$1000 to \$10,000 each (sight unseen).

D Coots moved that we accept the request for our sponsorship, with the proviso that the Laserfiche component be removed. Motion passed 4 to 3 to support this application, so the HHC will act as its sponsor.

5. Congregational Church. Discuss sponsorship request for CPC funding (church column repair). Pat from the Congregational Church (continued from August). There is a change in protocol from the CPC that we receive an HHC application. D. Coots moved that this application be considered inapplicable because it is a repair, not a replacement. No materials or details will change. The Commission voted for a Certificate of Nonapplicability.

R. Sprague moved that we sponsor the CP application. P Marston and K Swanton recused themselves from the vote. Vote was unanimously in favor of supporting this application for CP funds. The applicant voiced frustration that needless bureaucracy was being forced on her.

6. Barbara Hadad came before us a candidate as a new member. J. Feist distributed a chart made from the job description to help facilitate our review process.

Note: scheduled interviews with candidates Ames Hardyman and Susan Tarrant were rescheduled/postponed/canceled.

7. Discuss 'Invitation to Comment' by EBI Consulting (impacts of 2 new ATT projects in town). Documents distributed for raising height of cell towers outside of districts. We agreed that since it's not in the district, it's beyond our jurisdiction, and we won't take any action regarding this.

8. Proposal review for 140 South Shaker Road, Solar Panels. Doug Coots moved that this proposal be considered substantial. Unanimously voted as substantial. Applicant will set up poles at the height of the

panels. R. Sprague and P. Marston will be the official HHC scouts to visit the site and bring more information. Applicant will bring a photo from the public byways.

9. Continue discussion of Shaker Burial Ground (markers, trees). The Commission is still mixed in it's opinions regarding the CC's intended painting procedure. There is, however, general agreement that the upcoming design review for Hildreth House and Town Hall (the MBC effort) will need our concerted attention. We agreed to postpone pursuing the bylaw change which would resolve the jurisdictional question regarding burial grounds within our two Historic Districts.

10. Envelopes. We agree to have the town buy new envelopes for \$75 or so, out of our budget.

11. Harvard Press Q&A. We agree to participate. Ken will draft answers and bring them to the December meeting.

12. Solar Design Guidelines. New draft was reviewed. Feist and Coots suggested simplifications to fit better into our full design guidelines document. J. Martin will do another version. Marston and Sprague suggested adding pictures.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Feist