

## **Harvard Historic Commission**

Regular Meeting - Periodicals Room, Old Library  
Agenda - Wednesday March 7, 2012 at 7 PM

"Oversee modifications to the Harvard Common and Shaker Village  
Historic Districts in accordance with the state and local bylaws,  
and generally support historic preservation in Harvard."

Members in attendance were: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, Rhonda Sprague, John Martin, Chris Cutler and Doug Coots

Members absent: Barbara Hadad

### **Minutes for February meeting**

The minutes were reviewed and accepted as amended.

### **Vicksburg Square, Devens Housing Project**

A vote on the project will occur at the super town meeting on March 28th. All 3 towns have to vote for the project for it to proceed. A small part is in Harvard and it is on the National register. The representative from Trinity Financial answered questions and heard concerns about the project. We discussed whether we should make a presentation to ATM on this. We don't know if this project will be completed or how urgent the renovation is. At this point we feel that we need more details in order to make a presentation.

### **Town Hall Renovations**

As an update on the project headed to town meeting on April 28, Doug reported that the board voted 3-2 for the architects' recommendations at last night's selectman's meeting. We discussed whether we should invite members of MBC and the architects to meet with us. Doug encouraged us to go to the website to see the various proposals. (It is a schematic design.) The MBC project of Town Hall renovation meets our mission in renovating these buildings so we need to judge the appropriateness of the renovation. Warrant articles will be seeking funds for the renovation. We will invite them to our April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Marie Sobalvarho spoke to us about preservation funds. The Finance Commission will support a change to 3% for CPC as a way of funding the project. An article at 2010 ATM had set aside money for the cupola and it will "sunset" soon. Rhonda said the CPC thought \$100,000 would come back to them if not spent.

A discussion ensued regarding renovations at the Town Hall. From previous meetings: members were under the impression that the outside of the Town Hall would be painted. The Selectmen are OK with the paint analysis so far. The South façade will be the most easily done. The question is: How can we get the most value with CPC funds? People could see what is being done and be onboard with the project if they could see progress. Can we keep the money in reserve? \$77,000 is there to renovate the TH. If the ATM votes down the money request the TH would be painted, however roof repairs are more important. Sunset is June 30. The suggested

Warrant article would ask CPC to extend the sunset. Hildreth House would be the next project asking for funds.

### **The Old Inn**

There was a general discussion about the old Inn as it is reported to be going on the Auction block in April. It does not have to sold as affordable housing. It could be converted to condos and once the town sewerage system goes in, units could be rented. The Inn cannot be demolished without our input.

### **Update on continuing projects**

*Storage of HHC material:* John and Chris have not gone yet to see what is there.

*Sending letter to historic district homeowners:* Ken needs to find a list of homeowners. Jonathan had a list. Legally we are to send information to historic district residents and tax lists are the official lists. We need to find out from the tax collector who lives where. Rhonda will contact Janet.

*Updated operating guidelines:* Pam will send them to Ken for correction.

*HHC Design Guidelines:* Doug will add Solar Guidelines in InDesign and will send to Joe to edit.

*Master Plan Update:* Doug and Ken reported that there is talk of considering a change in zoning in the town center. Town forums have had discussions about adding pedestrian pathways in areas of the town. The Commission felt that we should keep our center looking as it is. There are few town centers as attractive as ours.

### **Other projects**

Name plate initiative for historic homes seems to be a good idea. Pam and Barbara could spearhead that.

### **Ongoing and new business**

Our charter is to keep up on what historic districts need.  
Pam will get info to Julie on perambulation and maps.

Solar zoning issue is headed for town meeting. Contractors are looking for land to rent for solar fields.

Next scheduled meeting: April 4

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Marston

*"11 Fairbank Street was built in 1825. It served as a residence, a variety of shops and offices, and at one time even a roller skating rink. In 1895 W.P. Farwell refurbished it into a lovely home. In 1945 it became the Harvard Inn, providing meals and lodging for travelers along what was then the main road from New York to vacation spots in the North." - The Harvard Album, Harvard Historical Society.*