

Harvard Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 2nd, 2012 7:00 pm

Meeting started 7:05 pm

Members present: Doug Coots, John Martin, Ken Swanton, Chris Cutler, Joe Theriault

Members absent: Rhonda Sprague, Barbara Hadad, Pam Marston

Guests: Bill Blackwell {HEAC}

Review and discussion of 5 Cross St.:

- Installation of garden shed and painting of house. After brief discussion John Martin moved to approve the painting of the house { Forest Green} and the installation of a Reed's Ferry shed{Historical Colonial}subject to receiving sketch of shed location on Plot. Seconded by CC and unanimously approved.

Review of April 4th minutes:

- Approved as amended unanimously.

Discussion of application review process:

- Is it necessary to follow bylaw {chapter48} if so applicant and abutters need to be notified within 14 days. Not sure if the commission has enough time to accomplish this. Need for clarification
- How can the commission make it easier and clearer what information is needed when filling out an application i.e. plot plans, photos, product information, plans.
- JM and KS will work on these issues and bring suggestions to next meeting.

Presentation from Bill Blackwell:

- Installation of solar panels on Elementary school roof
- Looking for opinion from HHC as to whether the panels would raise any concern
- HHC does not have jurisdiction as the school is not within the Historic District. Members also agreed that due to the panels location {south side of gymnasium} they would not visually impinge on the nearby Historic District.

Discussion of Town Meeting and election results:

- With the passage for funding of Town Hall Renovation what can the HHC expect and plan for in respect to its role in the design review process.
- Formal application for Town Hall will be submitted in approximately 8--9 months, this will be after completion of construction documents.
- There will be prior meetings with the HHC during the final design process

- The HHC should make sure that its review of the design is open and follows appropriate guidelines i.e. National Park Service Guidelines.
- The HHC Liaison to the MBC should be decided on after the Selectmen have conclude their appointment process.
- More discussion on how the HHC can educate itself on how to critique design with the impetus of an historical perspective .
- Important for the HHC to have a unified view and to have a process in place that guides us to that objective.

Discussion Shaker Cemetery tree removal:

- Can the Commission do anything more to help with tree removal
- KS will contact Cemetery Comm. to let them know that we are ready to assist if needed

Guidelines:

- JT has edited and cleaned up website Guidelines. Members all agree it looks great, Kudos to JT
- Motion made to approve amended guidelines JM seconded CC unanimously approved
- Members were asked to make suggestions to improve, add, subtract etc. to our website.

HHC election of Chairman, vice chairman, secretary and liaisons

- Will discuss process at our next meeting in June

Meeting adjourned 8:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Cutler