

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting - Old Library

Agenda - Wednesday Sept 19, 2012 at 7 PM

Members present: Ken Swanton, Doug Coots, Pam Marston, Barbara Hadad, Chris Cutler, Rhonda Sprague and John Martin

Members absent: Joe Theriault

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

Minutes

The minutes for the August meeting were amended and accepted.

CPC Funds

We discussed whether we need a letter from the Historical Commission saying that \$100,000 was approved by the ATM for Town Hall repairs and only \$7,579.30 was spent and that was to verify that the Town Hall building was sound. Rhonda reported that \$92,000 will be returned to the CPC. We also need to get a sign off from Tim Bragan regarding this matter. Ken will send them a letter.

New Septic System

Rhonda said her commercial property will be dug up and a mess during the sewer construction. She questioned if she has to do something with the historical commission. She will be changing the landscaping while this is going on, even changing the grade perhaps. She questioned whether she needed permission. John said that since she is working with the same material she should be OK. People can do modest things with their yards. Paving is OK. Changing the grade is OK. She will change the walkway. If there is not any significant change to the landscape...walkway, grading there is no need to come before the commission. We will send a letter to all of the owners in the historic district concerning this matter.

Public hearing application

Holly and Doug Rothkopf at 14 Old Boston Turnpike have applied for a certificate to rebuild an existing shed and modify entranceways. There was a roll call vote to open a public hearing. The votes were 6 yes and one recuse. (Doug is the architect for the project.)

The public hearing was called to order at 7:25 pm. The plans call for rebuilding an existing shed and redesigning steps and porticos. A civil engineer will make a plot plan. The shed is over 100 sq ft. Holly wants to make the shed more like the house. Drawings are in process and are about 80% done. Pam will keep copies of the plans in the file. Rothkopfs will need to file with the conservation commission because the shed is near wetlands.

The hearing was closed at 8:06. The vote was 6 yes, 1 recuse.

A motion was made to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness. A discussion ensued. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Town Hall Renovation Update

At the last meeting we felt we needed to talk to THBC. We questioned when the right time was for us to engage the committee. We discussed whether we want to meet with THBC in Nov. The decision was yes. There was a general discussion and an update on the designs.

HHC Records in Town Hall

We had been told to remove the HHC records from Town Hall by Sept 30 in order for the renovation to start. There are three file cabinets and about a dozen or so boxes of documents. Our goal is to figure out what is there and consolidate.

Historic House Markers Program

Pam and Barbara discussed what they had found so far in regards to the house markers. They researched several towns' programs and will prepare an application form for the commission to review. All agreed that homeowners of historic buildings would appreciate an opportunity to purchase a marker for their home. The form and size is yet to be determined. Joe had shared some ideas with them and will share with the others when he returns.

Ongoing and new business

The trees in the Shaker Village Cemetery need to be cut. They are breaking and falling on the markers.

A sign on Ayer Road near the Town Hall marking the Historic district is broken. It may have been damaged by trucks working on the sewer system.

A number of years ago the Garden club paid for signs in the burial ground. Perhaps they can refurbish and add to the ones there now.

A perambulation of an historic district is not planned for the fall. Shaker Village had a well attended house tour recently. We may consider a town center tour in the spring.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Marston

Secretary