

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting - Old Library
Agenda - Wednesday Oct 3, 2012 at 7 PM

Members in attendance were: Ken Swanton, Doug Coots, Joe Theriault, Rhonda Sprague, Chris Cutler, Pam Marston and Barbara Hadad.

The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were read and discussed after which they were amended and approved.

Application

Katrina Wuensch of 16 Fairbank St. presented a Certificate for Application to change the paint color of her front door and house shutters from light green to black. The shutters are metal and are fading in color. A discussion ensued as to whether the change would be substantial or insubstantial. Typically an insubstantial change is a "change of kind". The vote was unanimous that it is an insubstantial change. Abutters will be notified that she is changing the colors. This must be done 14 days prior to the next meeting.

Town Planner

The Commission was asked if we would be in agreement to have the town hire a town planner to help the various boards create reports and write grants, along with other duties. There was some discussion that this would be something the town could benefit from.

Grants

Grants are available from MA historical resources as are lists of historic districts owners.

Board of Selectman Letter

The Commission received a letter from BoS asking us what we see as our strategic plan in the next 5 years. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Town Hall Renovation Update

Contracts have been signed with the architects and the project manager. THBC asked them to create a schedule for the project. After this the zoning board will meet to discuss the setback issues. The architects will present a schedule and the next steps. They will meet with us so that we can relay any concerns we as a committee have. The process will be a long one. We should have at least one or two joint meetings as we go along. We want to understand what makes a beautiful building. Joe asked that we have a review of the building in a seminar. Doug and John will prepare a presentation on how to critique an historic building. We should meet at the library with Pete Jackson for a tour/seminar on Nov 3 at 9:00.

(The above THBC topic will now be held at the Nov 7 HHC meeting.)

CPC Application for Town Records Restoration

Town Clerk (Janet Vellante) reported to the Commission for the next phase of the town records restoration project. HHC support is sought again. The books to be restored this year are a continuation of what has been done previous years. The pages will be cleaned and two years worth will be rebound together. The HHC members looked over a sample of records from 1888. We may look to have funds for this project paid for by a grant. The Commission unanimously supports the preservation of these records. We, in effect, are supporting an artifact as well as the information.

Removal of HHC records from Town Hall

Chris went through the boxes to assess what is there. There are two file cases with old annual town reports and other documents that can be removed. Most documents need to be kept for one year only. Chris and John will look through the material in order to classify the data. Other commissioners will be needed to help with the sorting.

Historic District Sign Damage

Crosby in W Concord created the sign on Ayer Road that was damaged. We will need to have another one made.

Proposed Historical Commission Website "Extension"

HHC has an official website and this would link to it. There is a blog where we can discuss items however, there are guidelines as to how much we can discuss without violating the open meeting law. Members are encouraged to look at the website.

Ongoing and New Business

The Inn. Shutters were taken down, painted and put up.

Our application and procedure form needs to be updated. It should be easier to understand.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51. Next scheduled meeting will be November 7

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Marston