

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting - Old Library

Agenda - Wednesday Dec 5, 2012 at 7 PM

Members Present: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, Barbara Hadad, Doug Coots, Rhonda Sprague, Chris Cutler and John Martin.

Attendee: Selectman Bill Johnson

Minutes

The previous minutes were reviewed and the word cemetery was changed to burial ground as regards references to the Shaker Burial Ground.

Meeting with the Town Hall Building Committee

THBC, along with the architects, presented the Town Hall design including topics such as windows, paint colors, the cupola and siding. The objective of the meeting was to keep HHC in the loop. By December 15 the pricing will be done. If the price is too high the architects will have to redesign. At our next meeting we will come up with some items we think are important to consider such as the composition of the roof, the glass panels in the addition and whether to add shutters.

With the new addition to the Town Hall, HHC has a design review influence. We will circulate a list of priorities and discuss them at the next meeting. The design should be compatible with the main structure. We could plan on going to one of the THBC meetings in January to keep current with the design process.

Paving and Other Changes for the Proposed Television Studio at Bromfield

Selectman Bill Johnson attended the meeting to update the commissioners on plans for a public access cable facility at The Bromfield School. It is to be a collaborative venture of Harvard Cable Television and the Harvard Schools. HCTV has not had a proper area to use for broadcasting, production and editing of various municipal meetings. There would have to be changes in the access to the building in addition to some significant site work. There was a discussion as to how the HHC could look at the historic district and the school building. A question arose as to whether we consider the whole lot 29 A or include a buffer zone. The board suggested that an application of applicability be submitted. The commission will need to have two meetings on this topic.

Completion of HHC 5 Year Strategic Plan

Ken had prepared a spreadsheet of ideas that were proposed last year in a different format. A discussion ensued and several items were added. The vote to accept and present the modified document to the Selectmen was unanimous.

Proposed Enhanced Write Up for the HHC Process

Ken has rewritten the directions for the application process for those homeowners interested in making changes to their properties. These directions will be on the back of the application form. The commission has felt, for some time that the previous directions were cumbersome and confusing and needed to be revised. Members were encouraged to read these directions in order to be able to discuss them at the next meeting.

Historic House Markers Program

Pam and Barbara presented the group with a mock up, created by Chris, of a possible house marker. Grafix Design, in Ayer could print names, dates and other relevant information on the plaque for \$35-\$40. Chris could make the plaques for about \$10 each and the homeowner would pay for them at the Town Hall. Pam will investigate fonts to consider as only one font would be used. The color used for the font would be black.

Updates:

Shaker Burial Ground Tree Removal

Most of the grave markers were taken out. A few had been broken off and are still in the ground. Acorn Tree is waiting for the ground to freeze so that they can work without damaging the surrounding area.

Remove HHC records from Town Hall

Rhonda, Pam and Barbara have not looked at the records yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Marston

Next scheduled meeting: January 2