

**Harvard Historic Commission**  
Special Meeting-Hildreth House  
June 12, 2013 at 7 PM

Members present were: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, Chris Cutler, Ron Ostberg

Members absent: John Martin

Audience: Carlene Phillips, Pete Jackson.

Potential new members: Moe Dancause and Sherry Graham who have presented applications to become members.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

Front Entrance

A discussion has been ongoing about the continued use of the current front door. The consensus is that we apply for a variance to the MA Architectural Access Board to use the front door as a secondary access, especially for the upstairs. Ken will draft a letter to the board. The architect will present any letters to the board.

There was a motion to apply for a variance stating that the HHC advocates using the front entrance for at least the activities upstairs and ask the MA Historical Commission to support THBC with a recommendation of support for the variance. The purpose for the variance is to avoid a ramp and railing at the front of the building. The motion passed unanimously.

Balustrades

Joe said Acton and Westford have balustrades over the front portico. If we added them we could upgrade our front entrance. After some discussion it was determined that balustrades are an architectural issue and not an entrance issue and since the building appears to have never had balustrades, we will not advocate adding them.

Guard Rails

The commission supports the proposal to eliminate the pipe guardrails from the front entrance. The vote was unanimous to support removing the pipe guardrails.

Cupola

A motion was made to support the proposed cupola, and to ask the architects to provide materials to review. The vote was unanimously approved.

Architectural Ornaments

The commission feels that the original architectural ornaments on the building should be preserved. During the discussion the following were considered:

1. HHC could take the view that the building should be restored with the architectural ornaments intact as originally conceived.
2. that the building should be designed as drawn

3. that the building should be as drawn but with shutters added

#### Building Color

HHC members discussed the color of the building. The proposal shows the building with white. There was a motion to stay with white as proposed. The vote was unanimously in favor of white.

#### Shutters and chimneys

The commissioners feel that they need to see a rendering of the building with shutters. As regards the chimneys, we support their removal as proposed.

#### Roof Materials

There was a motion and an approval vote to have the architect price out various materials and provide samples of roofing materials. Members would like to have the roof look like the slate.

#### Addition

In general the Commission would like the design of the addition enhanced to add a degree of elegance and stature to the structure, and to make it complementary to the historic building. This would be similar to the 1890's addition, which had a degree of elegance of design, and complemented the original building. This is especially important considering that the back and side are so visible.

The commission voted unanimously to ask the architect to create sketches of several possible alternative designs for the new addition. Hopefully these can be reviewed at the Commission's June 17 meeting. This might involve changing window layout and details, changing rooflines, and changing the connector to just use windows.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Marston