

## Harvard Historical Commission

### Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common

Wednesday Evening Aug 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM

"Oversee modifications to the Harvard Common and Shaker Village Historic Districts in accordance with the state and local bylaws, and generally support historic preservation in Harvard."

Members present: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Pam Marston, Chris Cutler, Sherry Graham, Moe Dancause, Ron Ostberg and John Martin.

Audience: Debbie Hinchliffe

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10. The minutes from the June 5, June 26 and July 10 meetings were read and accepted.

#### Application Extension for George Watkins on Shaker Road

George Watkins has requested an extension for his window project on Shaker Rd that was initially approved two years ago. Gabe Vallente would not approve the work because it has been more than two years since the project was approved. George is replacing two old windows with new ones that look like the old ones. The Commission granted him a two year extension. The vote was unanimous.

#### Town Hall Renovation and Addition

The commissioners looked at a new version of the addition's porch and trim. This picture was sent to us as an idea. We have asked Pete to send us a proposal for this part of the project.

#### Application to Accessibility Board for a Variance for Front Entrance

The THBC is in the midst of working on the accessibility issue for the old front entrance. LLB architects are preparing the request for a variance and have sent the plans and a board member will go over them, then sign if accepted. HHC's letter requesting a variance will also be included. MA Historic Commission was notified about the variance and will do a review.

#### Ongoing Projects

##### CPC application to remove tress surrounding the Shaker Burial Ground

The Cemetery Commission Project addressed the tree removal inside the cemetery. There are 34 more trees to be removed from outside the cemetery. There are several trees growing in the stone wall as well. \$12, 500 was the new estimate to remove trees; \$13, 500 with stump grinding. The commission felt it was important to add 20% in case of extra problems. HHC should propose to CPC that Conservation Commission and Cemetery Commission meet with BoS to alert them about the project. Our CPC liaison is John. We will submit a request for CPC funding for \$16,250 to remove the hazard trees outside the cemetery and some inside the cemetery. The vote to approve was unanimous. Letters of support from Conservation and Cemetery can go with the application.

##### Cemetery Commission Liaison

Moe volunteered to be the liaison to the Cemetery Commission. The vote to approve was unanimous.

### Real estate Member

Sherry is the new real estate member and will alert historic district homeowners and realtors to district regulations.

### Lollipop Markers

Joe filled in the commissioners about the lollipop markers. The markers were removed for repair and the individual spaces were labeled. Our commission has an interest in preserving the markers as an historical asset. The Cemetery Commission would like our support in this initiative. Hopefully, by winter we should hear that the markers are back.

### Historic plaque program

Pam will rewrite the requirements for applying for an historic plaque and add the various designs that will be available. Applicants will have to prove authenticity as part of the application.

### Removing HHC records from the town hall

Pam and Barbara packed most of the HHC documents. There are still some large maps to be packed. Pam will look for flat files.

### CPC update

John was sworn in at the CPC meeting so is now the official CPC liaison from HHC. He will locate the document showing that TH money used was only \$13,000. The rest will be returned.

### Establishing HHC Operating Guidelines

Joe has put together a new version of HHC guidelines. We will be discussing the various articles piece by piece to ensure that they will work for us. Commissioners are asked to read the document for any additions or corrections. There was a discussion about ethics and how committees work.

### Other business

The HHC received an application for certificate from Robin Hu on removing a window towards the back of the house. The commission voted on whether it is substantial or insubstantial. Seven members voted it was substantial. Pam's was the only vote for insubstantial. Pam will send the abutters a notice of a public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27.

Next scheduled meeting is Sept 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Marston, secretary