

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common

Wednesday Evening Nov 6, 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: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Chris Cutler, Moe Dancause, Pam Marston, Ron Ostberg, Sherry Graham and John Martin,. Ken left soon after we started due to illness and Joe presided as chair.

Applicants for certificates: Carlos Munoz, Robin and Andy Hu, and Audrey Ball, representative for Erhart Mueller

Hildreth House representatives: Connie Larrabee, Ann Taylor and Richard Blinn

Audience: Doug Slade and Wade Holtzman

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting were approved with small changes.

Public hearing for Munoz Certificate

Carlos and Kristin Munoz have presented an application to install solar panels on their garage roof at 113 S. Shaker Rd. He described the shingles as covering the whole roof. The roof can be seen only slightly from the road. A motion was made to issue a certificate of appropriateness. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Public hearing for Mueller Certificate

Erhart Mueller's representative presented an application to replace the cedar shingle roof at 74 Shaker Rd. Installation to include the house and barn. A slate style was chosen to be compatible with the other houses in the village. A motion was made to approve the slate color choice. The approval vote was unanimous.

Public hearing for Hu Certificate

Robin and Andy Hu have presented an application to install a fence at the back of their property at 13 Mass Ave. They chose a cedar spaced picket (#3) fence with pressure treated wood. A motion was made to approve the #3 fence design. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Town Hall Renovation

Ken felt that the HHC should advocate for the renovation/restoration of the town hall. The voters turned down a \$1.1 million increase in the budget but the original amount, less monies already spent, is available. The exterior needs to be restored to prevent further deterioration.

Reconstruction of Damaged Powder house

Ken has talked to Tim Bragan about restoring the Powder House after it was hit by a vehicle. Insurance may pay for it. Robert Adam has been contacted to look into the restoration. HHC could do research on the structure and get any background information from HHS. A motion was made to restore the powder house with historically correct preservation. The vote in favor was unanimous. We will inform Tim of our support to get the motion going. Joe took an action to draft a letter to Tim Bragan to indicate that the HHC voted unanimously to say that the Powder House must be restored to its condition prior to the accident.

Historic Home Plaque Program

The commission has been designing a house marker program where homeowners may purchase a name or date plaque for their historical structure whether it is in an historic district or outside of it. A motion was made to approve the marker program. Ron was the only one who opposed it. Joe will send out a press release announcing the program.

Proposed Stone Wall Repair

Chris relayed to the commission that the Park and Recreation Commission is working on getting some specifications on the damaged wall in front of the library. Discussions have included topping it with large stones. Joe Schmidt is the point person and Chris will work with him and report back to our commission.

CPC Application to Remove Tress Surrounding the Shaker Burial Ground

Nov 20 CPC will discuss the tree removal and cost. Joe will invite Jack Spero from the Cemetery Commission and Paul Willard from the Conservation Commission to attend the meeting. Trees inside the cemetery have been removed but there are some others growing out of the walls themselves that are hazardous to the lollipop markers.

Hildreth House Window Replacement

HHC has been asked to sponsor window replacement at Hildreth House. Richard Blinn spoke to the group about the types of windows that would be used. Only those windows that will not be involved in the expansion of Hildreth House will be replaced. A motion was made to endorse the window replacement project. The vote to support was unanimous. John suggested that CPC has several areas where groups can apply for funds. Ken will write a letter to CPC endorsing the project.

Liaison Reports

CPC: John Martin- no report,

Master Plan: Joe Theriault- Committee selected a contractor to work on the master plan

HCC: Moe Dancause- no activity

Establishing HHC Policies and Procedures

The rest of the meeting was comprised of a discussion of the policies and procedures that Joe had been working on. A motion was made to approve the draft up through and including 3.1.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is Dec 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Marston