

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common

Wednesday Evening Dec 4, 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."

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Members present were: Ken Swanton, Joe Theriault, Moe Dancause, Chris Culter, Pam Marston, Ron Ostberg and John Martin.

Members absent: Sherry Graham

Audience: Davida Bagatelle and Marty Green, Library trustees. Ann Taylor and Connie Larrabee, Council on Aging representatives.

Minutes: The minutes for November were approved.

Application to Add a Sign at the Library Entrance

The trustees would like to put a sign at the end of the driveway on Pond Road marking the entrance to the library. Chris asked if the zoning board needs to OK this. John suggested that they talk to the building Inspector. Davida presented a picture of the sign and described the dimensions. Ron suggested that the posts holding the sign should be black and rounded. The design shows them painted white, as is the sign. The commissioners discussed the need for a public hearing. John suggested that adding the sign to the library property is insubstantial. A motion was made stating that the project is insubstantial. Ken, Joe, Pam, Moe, John voted yes. Chris and Ron voted no. The Commission will hold a public hearing on the project and abutters will be notified. Davida will have the application stamped.

Hildreth House Repairs

The representatives for Hildreth House have made a request for support from the HHC of a CPC funding request as an historical preservation. The repairs will include the porch, adding a lift, a handicapped sink in the kitchen and a handicapped bathroom upstairs. This project will go ahead with the window replacements as discussed in a previous HHC meeting. The other renovations may not. The building projects need to be sponsored. The project committee plans on attending the ATM with the monies in hand for the renovations. A motion was made for HHC to be in favor of endorsing the 4 items. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ken will write the letter to CPC endorsing the project.

Town Hall Renovation

The members of HHC strongly endorse the restoration of the Town Hall building. The Commissioners fashioned a resolution stating "The Harvard Common Historic District was created by the citizens of Harvard in 1974 as a means of preserving the historic assets of the Town Center. The Harvard Town Hall is an indispensable asset of this district and, as such, must be preserved. The Harvard Historical Commission advocates the continued use of Town Hall as the location of town government". A motion was made to approve the resolution. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Ongoing Projects

- a. CPC application to remove trees surrounding the Shaker burial ground.
Joe, John and Moe made a presentation to CPC from HHC supporting the removal of hazard trees around the Shaker Burial Ground. Trees have been removed inside the cemetery but a number remain outside that could present a problem to the markers if they were to fall in the near future. CC supported the application. CPC will meet one more time and then decide which applications they will accept. HHC representatives will follow up with BOS in January.
- b. Historic plaque program.
Pam will talk with Lorraine Leonard about how homeowners will pay for the plaques.
- c. Reconstruction of damaged Powder house
Ken gave Tim Bragen the Commission's letter stating that the Powder House should be restored to its condition before the accident. Three bidders have been contacted. HHC will be involved in looking at the bids. William Finch will examine the structure before it is taken apart (documentation of an historic artifact) Robert Adam will provide professional services, including being clerk of the works. The Commissioners noted that the taking down and restoration of the Powder House will be a substantial repair.
- d. Proposed stone wall repair in front of the library and Bromfield
\$55,000 has been allocated for the repair. Park and Rec will go to CPC for more funds. Ron and Chris discussed the fact that a granite top may be a good solution for the wall, similar to the one at the softball field. They will meet Mon at 1:00 pm to discuss the repairs.
- e. Any reports from liaisons to:

CPC- Joe reports that a contractor has been hired who will write the master plan. Devens will be a part of the plan.

HCC-Moe reports that the lollipop markers are almost all done and in place. 313 graves are identified. Some markers are gone. HCC would like to have a way to keep track of items that are removed from the cemetery for display elsewhere.

- f. Establishing HHC Operating Guideline- not discussed
- g. Enhancing the HHC application form- not discussed

Adjourned at 9:31

Next scheduled meeting Jan 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marston

Secretary