

Harvard Historical Commission

Regular Meeting

Location: Center on the Common, Fireplace Room

Wednesday Evening Feb 5, 2014 at 7:00 PM

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

Members Absent : Sherry Graham

Library Trustee: Marty Green

Town Master Plan member: Didi Chadron

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. The minutes from the January meeting were amended and approved.

Application to add a sign at the Library entrance

Marty Green brought new designs for the library sign. Ron explained the details of the design. Students at Monty Tech might be able fabricate the posts. Graphics Unlimited can produce a sign holder too. There was a discussion about the height. There will be a granite base. This sign will go where the current sign is. Ron suggested that the commission endorse this design. A motion was made to approve the Monty Tech sign as a first design and then the other from Graphics Unlimited if the Monty Tech design is not possible. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Historical Commission and the Town Master Plan

Joe filled the committee in on the Master Plan progress. He and Didi discussed how HHC will be a part of this plan. The discussion was recorded.

Master Plan Phase one: done

Master Plan Phase two: do more of directional analysis to determine how any issues affect HHC.

Ron suggested that master planners look over the previous master plans. The major issue is governance. The issue is whether we can implement ideas already put forth. "Looking into rural landscape" as that is our mission.

Ron says HHC does not have the authority to preserve the town center. We can remedy that situation by coordinating with other boards in town projects. For example: the proposed repair of the stone wall at Bromfield, the proposed renovation of town hall, the completed expansion of the Congregational Church. Joe suggests that HHC can be more visible in the plan by ensuring the projects are completed according to the applications.

We have to look at how the master plan might affect our commission. Devens could impact HHC. Ayer Road development does not affect HHC. Housing could affect HHC. Town Center and conservation will affect HHC. There is a huge amount of room to expand the scope of HHC. We will discuss these topics and get back to Didi.

Powder House Restoration

Ken told the group that the documentation was completed last Sunday. We will not know how it will be restored until it is taken apart. The insurance payment looks promising. A motion was made to endorse the plan Ken proposes for the Powder House. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Town Hall Renovation

Ken presented the new plans for the TH as presented in the press. Joe felt that BOS needs to know what is important to HHC. HHC can send an email to BOS stating that we expect the building to be restored.

Ongoing Projects

a. CPC application to remove trees around the Shaker burial ground . CPC approved our request for tree money. Joe will send an email to Lucy filling her in on the tree removal request. We need to have it ready for ATM. We will have to wait until the ground thaws to start the removal. Hildreth House money was not all approved.

b. Historic plaque program: Pam will write a letter to Lorraine describing our proposed procedure for homeowners to procure historic plaques. Chris will make the blanks to be stored at Grafix. Grafix will print the information on the plaques after the homeowners application is approved by HHC. Homeowners will then pay Grafix.

c. Website workshop: Joe described the workshop he held at his home for HHC members.

d. Proposed stone wall repair in front of library: Chris wants to ask Robert Adam to look at the wall. His mason, Jeremy, will construct it.

e. Any reports from liaisons to: HCC had a meeting at Roben's home where commissioners were shown the print of the Shaker Cemetery markers which will be given to the Shakers in Maine.

f. Establishing HHC Operating Guidelines not discussed.

g. Enhancing the HHC application form not discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: March 5, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Marston