

Historic District Commission Meeting
May 17, 2012

Present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Kevin Crowley, Chris Hagger, George Ives, Desmond McAuley

Public Comment – there was none.

Minutes of April 19, 2012. Kathie Steinberg took minutes of last meeting but has been having computer challenges. Minutes have not been received.

Freight House and Rail Trail Issues. Margery reported on a conversation she had with Rick Conard today. Rick had recently received some communication from John Moynihan:

- Reporting that the paint samples were NOT on the Freight House – and that John would be in touch with the painting contractor.
- John M. also asked Rick about the door on the east end of the Freight House (which is currently inside the building) – and the opening is covered with plywood. John asked Rick if there was writing on the back of the door; if not, John would have the door discarded. Rick told me that he was interested in writing and hinges, etc.
- John told Rick that the carpentry is COMPLETE for the Freight House.
- Outside lighting has not been addressed – and additional money would be needed for this.

Rick also reported that 35 volunteers had helped with the clearing along the rails on April 28 & 29. The stone wall near the Freight House, that backs up to the Grout Heard House Museum property has been cleared! More dirt has been excavated from the round house foundation. They found the remains of the coal bunker (Atwood Coal Co.) and it is between the Freight House and Millbrook Road.

After hearing this report from Rick Conard (via Margery) there was a consensus on the HDC that the exterior door that was originally on the east side of the Freight House should NOT be discarded. One member thought it should be repaired and put in place of the plywood. Gretchen will contact John Moynihan to learn why the door would be discarded and what will be used in place of the plywood that is presently in the opening.

Gretchen attended an Historical Commission meeting a couple of weeks ago when Rick spoke of his concern regarding artifacts along the proposed rail trail. (When the Bedford rail trail went in, there were quite a number of artifacts that were removed and discarded, rather than being preserved.) The consensus on the HDC was that the rail trail folks need to be made aware that they could be eliminating evidence; and we need to guard against this, particularly in the Historic District. Gretchen offered to write a (friendly) letter to the Friends of the Rail Trail; and the letter will be copied to the Selectmen and the Planning Board.

Regarding the paint color for the Freight House -- paint and stain samples will be placed on old and new wood on east side. Margery, George and Rick Conard will determine if the paint or stain covers properly. (The colors approved by the HDC on September 15, 2011 are to be a colonial yellow and a dark red that are close to the colors Rick used on his model of the Freight House.)

Update on Intersection Construction and Sidewalk

George and Gretchen, and then Gretchen and Meaghan met at the First Parish regarding the granite posts that were to be moved for the new lane of traffic. Gretchen also mentioned meeting with Dan DeRoche from Vanasse and Mark Morgan from EMJ. Careful measurements were taken between the posts, height of the posts above ground, etc. Currently the posts will be 31 inches above ground. The spacing between the posts is between 10 feet 4 inches and 12 feet. The rails will have slight curved edge on all 4 sides. The wood will be pressure treated. Everything will be painted before it is installed. They will probably not put the fence in place until October or November. There are extra brackets for the fence in the basement of the church.

Both Kevin and Desmond (the two architects on the HDC) thought fir would be preferable to pressure treated wood for the rails. Fir is a better grade of wood and could be painted immediately. (They thought that pressure treated wood should not be painted for about 3 months.) Gretchen will contact Dan DeRoche to ask for fir and if not to hold off on painting PT until it has aged in place.

Sidewalk on the west side Old Sudbury Road. Gretchen explained that there is another issue for the proposed sidewalk along Old Sudbury Road between the Depot and the entrance to Wayland Commons and the New Town Center. The Purringtons at 6 Old Sudbury Road will need to decide whether a tree should be removed in front of their house OR if they would be willing to give the town an easement so that the sidewalk could come around the tree. Sarki hopes to come for approval at the June 21st HDC meeting.

Wind Turbines at Stop and Shop. Stop and Shop has changed the proposed location for the 6 wind turbines to the parking lot on the west side of the proposed building.

213 Boston Post Road (the Taub's old place). The columns holding up front porch need to be replaced with identical columns. (This may be considered maintenance; Gretchen will check to see that the columns are the same.)

The next meeting will be June 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston