

WHDC Meeting

October 15, 2012

(following Joint Meeting with WHC & Historical Society Board)

Public comment: There was none.

Discussion of solar panel project at 30 Bow Road. There is an application for hearing on Nov. 1. The panels will be very visible from Route 27. This is a 1961 house; and the panels will be on the back of the house (not the front which faces Bow Road). There is a small “transformer” box on the west gable end – but it is not visible. The solar panels are raised about 4 inches off the roof surface. Gretchen read a section from Mass General Law 40C which asks that accommodations be made in historic districts for the use of solar technology.

Response to Town Center Intersection reconstruction memo. The Board of Public Works received the memo in time for a meeting with the developer, Twenty Wayland, on October 1. Frank Dougherty reported to the BoPW that underground Verizon cables/lines that were located along the edge of the Mellen Law Office Green prevent the completion of the 20/27 intersection until they are moved. Verizon has discovered a line that consists of wires which have oil as part of their insulation. These lines are delicate and require extensive work to relocate them. Verizon does not feel that it can move the lines (less than 2 feet) before the spring. Therefore, Twenty Wayland asked to have the deadline for the completion of the intersection extended to June 15, 2013. They said they could pave major sections of the intersection this fall, but would have to come back and repave the area that Verizon disrupts. State DEP is very much against paving in the fall and again in the spring --- as this would leave a joint in the pavement which over time would crack and degrade the surface. In other words, DEP wants one large uniform surface covering the intersection.

The Board of Public Works (BoPW) was unhappy with this situation, but decided to go along with the extension to ensure a uniform and longer-lasting surface for the intersection. Except for the blending lane which is taking part of the Law Office Green, the intersection will be essentially complete but without the final coat. Twenty Wayland plans to line the intersection with the same markings that will eventually be put down to aid

in traffic flow. In the spring they plan to cold-cut the whole intersection in one evening. Because the cold-cutting will remove the loops that control the traffic lights, they will then need to take another evening to cut the pavement and re-install the loops. At that point the whole intersection should be ready for paving.

Before the BoPW meeting Margery called Ged Rice to inform him that unfinished issues with regard to the intersection "improvements" would be discussed. Toward the end of this discussion the BoPW chairman, Mike Lowery, picked up the HDC memo and said in essence: "Here are some additional issues that need to be addressed." And, the BoPW did so for the next 10 to 15 minutes. Fast-forwarding to the end, the BoPW made and passed a motion to extend the deadline to June 15, 2013, and **to require that Twenty Wayland post the appropriate bond and insurance and that all of the issues in the HDC memo be addressed.** (Don Ouellette was present at the BoPW meeting and agreed to the addition of the HDC concerns to the punch-list that needs to be done before the intersection is accepted.)

Minutes of September 20, 2012 were approved. (4-0-0)

HDC Annual Report for July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 will be placed on HDC pages on the town website.

There was further discussion of high school student projects (from the joint meeting with HC and Historical Society). Desmond made the point that documentation is so easy now; and the junior class every year is looking for something to do in American history. Kathie pointed out that the Veteran's project last year by students was impressive, which included oral history. Kathie also spoke of an electronic newsletter written by students that appears on the school website that is totally run by students.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston