

WHDC
January 16, 2014

HDC members present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Alice Boelter, Chris Hagger, George Ives, Desmond McAuley, Kathie Steinberg, Meghan Winokur

(1) Public comment there was none.

(2) Minutes of November 21, 2013 were approved (6-0-0).

(3) Design Review Guidelines. Gretchen distributed a sign policy and door policy for the purpose of discussion. She has spoken to Sarki (Town Planner) and Bill Sterling (chair, Design Review Board) about the HDC building on top of the Design Review Guidelines. Chris asked about kick-plates on doors. Desmond responded that kick-plates were Georgian (18th century). He mentioned their use in Ireland and England. There was some discussion of the need for case by case decisions on doors, windows and more. The houses in the HD are actively lived in and they evolve with time. Desmond reminded us of the medical axiom "Do no harm" (when rendering decisions on old buildings). Gretchen will email the door and sign guidelines to HDC members. The Design Review Guidelines are primarily for businesses and the HD has only 4 commercial properties.

(4) Calendar and goals for 2014.

(a) There was a consensus to continue meeting on the third Thursday of each month.

(b) Demolition Delay. Chris asked about a Demolition Delay policy. Every surrounding community has one. Gretchen said that Ira will be our point person on the Planning Board (PB) ; and, of course, the PB will need to work with the Historical Commission. There is a list of parameters for the demolition delay. Gretchen pointed out that there are problems with tying it strictly to the inventory list of older homes in town. A year delay would be necessary; six months is not enough time. Kathie reminded us that at the joint meeting with the Historical Commission and the Historical Society the idea of a demolition delay was mentioned. Along educational lines in the past Gretchen has done a slide show/program on "Lost Wayland." Alice suggested we have a broader perspective than just sparing the oldest homes. We should perhaps include the evolution of architecture to include ranch style houses and "camp" cottages. An educational effort that includes the Historical Commission will be necessary prior to the passage of a demolition delay policy at Town Meeting.

(c) The Rail Trail. The issue of Rail Trail should also be a goal to work on with Historical Commission and the Planning Board. Desmond also suggested that the HDC catalogue types of doors, windows, etc that would be characteristics of the HD. This would allow the HDC to be proactive rather than reactive. Window typologies could be listed for the various points in time. Shingle typologies, clapboards versus shingles, granite steps versus field stone, etc. We could have color conversations if we had a list. Desmond thought that the idea of breaking

the job up into portions, perhaps a couple of mornings could be devoted to certain issues: doors, roofs, windows, fencing, etc. Gretchen might put out a list of categories and HDC members could choose which they would be willing to cover possibly with their digital camera photos for insertion in the Guidelines for work in Historic Districts.

(5) Election of Officers. George made the motion that those currently serving remain in their positions: Gretchen Schuler as chair; Chris Hagger as vice-chair; and Margery Baston as clerk. This motion received a unanimous, favorable vote (7-0-0) (Alice could not vote because she is an alternate and seven members were present.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston