

Historic District Commission Meeting
August 21, 2014

HDC members present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Alice Boelter, Meaghan Winokur

Others present: Sarkis Sarkisian, Town Planner; Rick Conard and Tonya Largy, Historical Commission members.

Public Comment-- there was none.

Minutes of June 16, 2014 Meeting were accepted as amended.

30 Cochituate Road. The Farleys at 30 Cochituate Road are having water come in under their front door -- and because of this Mary Farley was thinking of replacing the front door. A workman apparently did not angle the door sill properly; and this appears to be the cause of the problem. After some thoughtful consideration, Mary decided in favor of keeping the front door, but she would like to change the color from a black to a dark Essex Green; and she would like this done in a semi-gloss paint. There was a motion to approve the change of color to the door from black to Essex Green in a semi-gloss; and this was followed with a unanimous, favorable vote. (Vote 4-0-0)

Old Sudbury Road sidewalk. The sidewalk along Old Sudbury Road which had been promised to residents in the HD was not constructed when the road was recently repaved. Sarkis explained that with the change of the head of DPW, there was not adequate communication about the sidewalk. However, Sarkis hopes to put the construction of the sidewalk (from the Depot to the stone piers near the Route 27 entrance of the New Town Center) out to bid next week.

Public Hearing - Railroad Tracks west of Depot. Removal of 80 linear feet of railroad track on western most end of HD near turn table. Sarkis explained that Phase I of the rail-trail involves Route 20 to the Depot -- and the object is to remove track and replace it with a stone dust and gravel base. A company, Iron Horse, will remove the track for free and put the stone dust and gravel base down. Sarkis needs to obtain a license from DCR -- the HDC had already written a letter to the DCR, which the HDC now needs to amend. After Phase 1 there is hope to extend to the rail trail to the Weston

town line. In about a month we could receive \$250,000 from Twenty Wayland; however, Sarkis needs to get a license in order to receive this money that can be used for rail-trail work in this segment only. Gretchen pointed out that the area where the 80 feet of rail is to be removed in the HD, is tight -- it is close to the round table foundation and one of the electric towers. The building for the cell tower has been removed. The Historical Commission had sent a letter to Sarkis asking that as much rail be left as possible. Thus the plan is to leave most of both rails (main track and siding) in the Historic District with removal of only this 80' section. In the next phase it is likely that the siding by the Freight House will be left -- but the main rail will be taken. Rick asked if it would be possible to save the rail removed from HD -- for the interpretive site. If complete sections of rail are saved -- and the standard length is 39 feet -- the two sections of track would be almost 80 feet. A motion was made to accept the application as written; and this motion received a positive, unanimous vote. (4-0-0)

Temporary signs on the Law Office Green. A complaint had been made to the HDC that the temporary signs for the Farmers Market should not be placed on the Mellen Law Office Green without the approval of the HDC. This led to an animated discussion. Some members of the HDC felt the complaint was justified and other members felt that it did not warrant HDC action. The end result was that the HDC chair will ask the person placing these signs to not place the temporary signs on the Mellen Law Office Green without an application before the HDC in order to be consistent with all users and applicants in the future.

Selectmen to interview prospective members to the HDC. The Board of Selectmen will be interviewing Alice Boelter and Kathie Steinberg on Monday night, August 25, for permanent positions on the HDC. Gretchen will not be able to attend the Selectmen's meeting; and Margery offered to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery Baston