

Historic District Commission Meeting  
October 16, 2014

HDC members present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Alice Boelter, Desmond McAuley, Kathie Steinberg

Other present: Jean Millburn (for the First Parish), Richard Turner

Public comment: There was none.

The minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting were accepted. (5-0-0)

Public Hearing - Temporary Sign - 24 hours once a week. The applicant was not present. This would be for winter market. Signs would go up on Friday night and be removed Saturday night. For the last week or so of the summer market the sign was placed on Blacksmith Green. Alice moved that we eliminate all temporary signage on the Mellen Law Office Green. Desmond asked that we delay the decision on whether to allow a temporary sign for the Farmers' Market until the next HDC meeting. He wanted more time to think about this issue. (In the town Desmond grew up -- the only place signs could be placed was on the town green.) Alice moved to withdraw her motion and this motion was accepted (5-0-0) There was a motion to continue the hearing until next month, Nov. 20 at 7:45 pm. This received a unanimous, positive vote (5-0-0)

Hearing - First Parish Church -- stairs and railings for the deck on the west side of the recent addition. Jean Milburn presented an application and photos on the connector and its deck (on the west elevation). Side rails and handrails are needed for safety purposes. Currently there is a bluestone landing just beyond the deck. Jean pointed out that the public view would be of the the end of the two posts and the risers of the stairs.

The steps are intended to look like and blend in with other steps -- so they will be painted white with gray treads. Desmond pointed out that the balusters should be evenly spaced. He also thought the carriage bolts (called out as lag bolts on plans) could be counter-sunk so they would not be visible. Desmond asked about a cap on the railing -- in the drawings it looked like a 2 x 6 board. If the top of handrail is beveled the water would run off. Desmond thought posts could reflect the detail found elsewhere on the building, however, he also thought it should be kept simple. Kathie suggested the detail that is evident on the columns on the front porch of Parish House.

After much discussion Jean reiterated the changes advised by the HDC: make bottom end of balusters flush with trimboard; bevel the handrail to shed water; make the handrail of the deck and stairs join smoothly and continuously; space balusters more evenly; paint railings white; countersink the heads of the lag bolts; and have treads of steps match gray of Parish House porch steps. There was a motion to approve these changes; and everyone voted in favor. (5-0-0) Gretchen will send a certificate to Jean and to the Building Committee at the First Parish.

Jean briefly reported that things are going very well with the historic preservation currently underway at the First Parish.

Design Review Guidelines -- color is something some HDCs do not cover. We will continue discussion next month -- and have a hearing in January or February. Paint color could be "advisory" review. Older HDs regulate color; new HDs generally do not. Refer to Historic New England paint color. Any comments, please send an e-mail to Gretchen.

Other business:

Meaghan Winokur will be resigning (because she has become too busy to attend meetings). Marjorie Ford, is a real estate agent, and she has expressed interest in serving on the HDC. Gretchen will send the BoS a

sample letter for them to send to Greater Boston Real Estate Board requesting nominees. This is required by the by-law.

Additional alternate members are needed on the HDC. Gretchen recently tried to reach the Finlaysons (who live at 39 Old Sudbury Road, in the Bow Road Historic District).

Kathie Steinberg reminded the HDC that there is a need to follow through on the proposed sidewalk for Old Sudbury Road between the Wayland Depot and the stone piers.

In past there was some thought of a Historic District in Cochituate Village but it came about in conjunction with concern over a CVS locating on the south east corner, site of Dunkin Donuts. With the neighborhood so distracted by the CVS controversy there was not sufficient time to plan an HD or an Architectural Preservation District and to explain its significance to property owners such that a related warrant article failed at Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margery Baston