

Minutes  
Historic District Commission Meeting  
September 22, 2016

Members present: Gretchen Schuler (presiding), Margery Baston, Alice Boelter, Marji Ford, Kathie Steinberg

Gretchen announced that Sheryl Simon (Alternate) will be resigning given time constraints, and Kate Finlayson was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Others present: John Thompson and Jean Milburn (for the First Parish)

Public Comment. John Thompson and Jean Milburn expressed gratitude to the volunteers serving on the HDC.

Minutes of May 19, 2016 were approved as amended. (5-0-0)

Rail Trail from Russell's to Wayland Depot. The rail trail from Russell's to the Wayland Depot will be handled by the Town. The section of rail trail going East (from the Freight House to the town line or to Plain Road) will be overseen by DCR. Margery reported that there was a pre-bid meeting for the contractor of the rail trail project on Wednesday morning.

Annual Report was accepted (5-0-0)

7:45 pm Public Hearing, 225 Boston Post Road. Jean Milburn and John Thompson presented plans to provide steps to a deck off the First Parish addition facing Cochituate Road. There will be a 36 inch Azek railing (which is appropriate for the height of deck). There will be two steps with a bluestone landing and three Azek posts. Like the steps on the Parish House, the risers will be white and the treads will be a natural wood. Caps on the railing posts will be a little higher than 36 inches. There was a motion to approve this application as presented. The motion received a unanimous, positive vote. (5-0-0)

Wayside pulpit. Jean Milburn alerted the HDC that the new minister at the First Parish is interested in a "wayside pulpit" such as those often in front of churches to offer "messages by the wayside". Some concern was expressed

by the HDC about signage in the HD. There was a brief discussion as to where such a “wayside pulpit” might be located given other signs at First Parish both in and outside the district boundary.

Guidelines. Some basic issues with the draft guidelines were discussed. The cover to the guidelines might include appealing photos of historic architecture. There was discussion under “The Historic District Review Process” of stating the HDC policy of reviewing each application “case by case.” The HDC will use the guidelines to evaluate each application “on its own merits”. It was suggested that a list of houses exhibiting particular “period” styles be provided in the Guidelines. There might also be a page listing addresses within each district with the building style, etc. Another suggestion was to denote words that might be unfamiliar with an asterisk when they are defined in the glossary. Gretchen said she would attempt this. The Commission then did some “word smithing” on pages 1 through 4 of the Guidelines.

Sign for The Children’s Way. The new director of Children’s Way has expressed an interest in a sign directing people and vendors to the Children’s Way from Cochituate Road. The location for such a sign could perhaps be on the back of “No left turn” sign on the south side of driveway by Cochituate Road. Gretchen noted that TCW is working with other Town departments first to ascertain requirements before filing with HDC.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margery Baston