

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



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GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION Regular Meeting Minutes from June 20th 2019 Town Hall 6:30 pm

Attendees-

Donald Howe, Chair
James Mercer, Vice-Chair
Patricia Ryan, Secretary
Abby Schroeder, Member
Julie Fagan, Member

Not Present-

Marilyn Bisiewicz, Alternate

Present- Ed Abrahams, Selectboard; Applicants; Randy Weinstein; Eileen Mooney

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting opened at 6:31 and called to order by Chair Howe.

Meeting Notes for May 16th and June 6th were reviewed. Motion to approve May 16th with revision to Staff Person for Mahaiwe Arts by Abby Schroeder seconded by Patricia Ryan. All present voted in favor with none opposed.

Motion to approve June 6th as written by Abby Schroeder seconded by Patricia Ryan. All present voted in favor with none opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing #1- The first public hearing was held for the New Exterior Signage and Faux Finishes for the WBCR Storefront at 320 Main Street in the Mahaiwe Block. Abby Schroeder made a motion to open the Public Hearing and seconded by Julie Fagan. All present voted in favor with none opposed.

Philp McTigue for the Berkshire Community Radio Alliance along with Joel Hanes, Contractor/Artist, presented Plans and Photos showing improvements to the existing Plywood Surfaces currently painted Dark Blue. Faux finishes simulating the existing stone will be installed along with classic lettering for the Station's Call Letters.

Motion to Close the Public Hearing by Julie Fagan with a second by Patricia Ryan. All Present voted in favor with none opposed.

Motion by James Mercer for approval of the Application as Appropriate. His findings noted the Signage and Faux Finishes was compatible with the Historic Building. Motion was seconded by Patricia Ryan. Voting in favor were Howe, Mercer, Ryan, Schroeder and Fagan with none opposed. Motion passed.

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Public Hearing #2- The Second Public Hearing was held for the Placement of a Bronze Statue proposed to be located at the Front of the Mason Library. Motion to open the Public Hearing by Julie Fagan with a second by Abby Schroeder. All voted in favor with none opposed.

Daniel Klein, as a Citizen Initiative, and his wife, Freke Vuijst, reviewed an updated application for placing a Bronze, seated sculpture honoring WEB Du Bois at the Mason Library site. Freke Vuijst read the revised wording of their Application. Attached were photos showing a seated figure (Ed Abrahams) on a park bench in front of the Mason Library. The proposed location was to the Left, North side of the main entrance sidewalk with the Sculpture centered in the grass area between the main walkway and curved sidewalk to the North.

Chair Howe noted that a sculpture with a hard base would be level and stick above the existing sloping grades. He noted that such a change would disrupt the symmetry of the landscaping and the building.

Abby Schroeder expressed her opinion that the proposed location was inferior, and she felt that the area at the southwesterly corner of Main and Pleasant Streets had more feasible, desirable sites.

There were no other opinions by those in Public attendance.

Motion to close the Public Hearing by Julie Fagan with a second by Abby Schroeder. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Howe noted that this HDC review of a Completed Application by Mr. Klein for the proposed sculpture that may change when the Final Sculptor/Artist is selected. Chair Howe noted the Finish/color is not part of the Commission's Review. Any future reviews would not necessarily come back to the HDC, but the final version would need review by the Library Board of Trustees and the Selectboard. Patricia Ryan questioned limiting the location to one section of the Library site.

Motion by James Mercer for approval of the Application as Appropriate for placing the Seated Statue honoring Du Bois as a man of letters on the Mason Library property at the open space adjoining the sidewalks at the southwesterly corner. Motion was seconded by Julie Fagan. Voting in favor were Howe, Mercer, Schroeder and Fagan with Ryan asked to be recused. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

MA General Laws and Applications Review- Chair Howe noted that final review copies were not available. Julie Fagan noted that she had reviewed the online copy of the design guidelines. Chair Howe will see that the review copies of the HDC Forms and Regulations will be forwarded to members prior to the July Regular Meeting.

CPC Future Projects- Chair Howe noted the CPC Committee will be requesting proposals this coming Fall for the next Fiscal Year.

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NEW BUSINESS

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Next Meeting- Next HDC Regular Meeting was scheduled for July 15th 2019 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn by Abby Schroeder with a second by Patricia Ryan. All present voted in favor with none opposed.