

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION Regular Meeting Minutes from October 15th 2020 Town Hall via Zoom 6:30 pm

Attendees-

Donald Howe, Chair
James Mercer, Vice-Chair
Julie Fagan, Member
Fred Clark, Member
Marilyn Bisiewicz, Alternate

Not Present- Abby Schroeder, Secretary; Bill Nappo, Alternate

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:36 by Chair Howe.

Meeting Notes for the September 17th 2020 Regular Meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve as presented by Julie Fagan and seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz voted in favor on a roll call with none opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING No. ONE

Train Station- Public Hearing No. One was the Application by Cupboard & Roses LLC for New Building Signage at the *Train Station* at 40 Castle Street.

Motion by James Mercer to open the public hearing with a second by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Edith Gilson presented the information on the New Building Signage for her Retail Store which has recently moved from Sheffield to this location. The new Signage has an upper section of White lettering with a Blue background featuring the Business Name. There is lower section with Blue lettering on a White background featuring product news. A smaller "open" sign will hang from a new cross bar preventing people from bumping into the upper signage. The final item of signage is a Red, White and Blue Flag with "Antiques" spelled out on the White center band. The Applicant will provide the actual dimensions to the Building Inspector for completion of the permitting process.

Motion by Julie Fagan to close the public hearing with a second by James Mercer. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Motion by James Mercer to approve the Application as Appropriate noting that sizes, massing and grouping of the elements with the Business Colors and Graphics will be an asset the Train Station complex.

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Motion was then seconded by Julie Fagan. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING No. TWO

Russell House- Public Hearing No. Two was the Application by Mayer & Associates Architects for Robert Hartwell for the Rehabilitation Existing Exterior of the *Russell House* at 54 Castle Street.

Motion by Julie Fagan to open the public hearing with a second by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Alan Mayer presented the Documents showing proposed changes to the exterior of the Russell House. Robert Hartwell and his Mother spoke on their enthusiasm in updating the Building along with preservation especially its proximity to the Mahaiwe Theater and also its location in Great Barrington, the Birthplace of W.E.B. Dubois.

Motion by Marilyn Bisiewicz to close the public hearing with a second by Julie Fagan. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

The following items were discussed-

General Building renovations include siding repair, fascia trim repair, shutters reinstallation, wood windows replacement along with new French doors and basement windows at the Westerly and Northerly sides and will not be visible from a public way.

Widow's Walk to be highlighted on the existing flat roof. A historic photo provided by the Chair had a highly decorative wood fencing along Castle Street but no railing along the roof areas. Fred Clark expressed his support for the total work except for this proposed new railing. Chair Howe noted a shorter railing height and wider spindle spacing along with more decorative posts such as similar elements on roof railings at Town Hall and the Mason Library might be more reflective of the original period of the building rather than railings meeting current building code. This comment assumes that this roof area is not easily accessible through two overlapping attic roof framing and would be used primarily for maintenance. Alan Mayer agreed noting that the Building Inspector would need to review this item.

Site Work that will be done at this time includes a reduction in the overall size of the turnaround driveway and removal of the concrete steps/stairway from the driveway to the main entrance. New retaining walls are proposed for the Westerly and Northerly sides.

Motion by James Mercer to approve the Application as Appropriate including the leeway to obtain from the Building Inspector approval of authentic details for the new railing at the widow's walk. Motion was then seconded by Julie Fagan. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with Clark opposed voting no.

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PUBLIC HEARING No. THREE

FCC Manse- Public Hearing No. Three was the Application by the First Congregational Church for Roofing Replacement at the Manse at 241 Main Street.

Motion by Julie Fagan to open the public hearing with a second by James Mercer. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Chuck Hamilton presented the application for the First Congregational Church. Photographs showed the areas at the Rear of the Building that presently have asphalt type shingles will be replaced with similar product. The Color of the shingle is a red blend giving homage to the Red Slate Shingles on the Front of the Manse and the adjoining Carriage House. Chair Howe noted that he believed that approval had been obtained a few years ago for replacement of various sections of the Rear roof to have asphalt type shingles as the original slates were removed.

Motion by James Mercer to close the public hearing with a second by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Motion by James Mercer to approve the Application as Appropriate noting that the installation of asphalt shingles was necessary to protect and thus preserve the Building.

Motion was then seconded by Julie Fagan. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Transformer Graphics- James Mercer noted that the Transformer Graphics are being worked on for installation at a future date.

Walking Tour Brochures- James Mercer noted that early next year, the revisions to the Plastic Holders should be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

FCC Manse- An Application is in process for the Repair/Replacement of the Stone Wall at the Rear Entry Steps to the Residence along Pleasant Street. The wall fell down in the Late Winter/Early Spring of this year and has had a metal chain link fencing barricade for protection.

271 Main Street- An Application has been received for replacement of the Entire Signage for TD at 271 Main Street. This will be one item for a Public Hearing on November 5th along with the anticipated Wall replacement for the Manse.

Design Advisory Committee- James Mercer noted that the HDC Representative needs to be appointed. Chair Howe noted that the Term is on a yearly basis. He also noted that the latest

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revisions to their By-laws at the recent Town Meeting will require an HDC Regular Member and an HDC Alternate as the number of Regular Members is reduced.

A motion was made by Julie Fagan for James Mercer to continue his HDC Representative on the Design Advisory Committee and seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz voting in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Next Meeting- Next HDC Meeting will be a special meeting scheduled for November 5th 2020 at 6:30 pm. The Regular Meeting for November will be November 19th 2020 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40pm by Marilyn Bisiewicz unless there is any objection with a second by Julie Fagan.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald V. Howe, Chair
November-05-2020