

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION Special Meeting Minutes from November 5th 2020 Town Hall via Zoom 6:30 pm

Attendees-

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

Not Present- Bill Nappo, Alternate

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Chair Howe.

Meeting Notes for the October 15th 2020 Regular Meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve as presented by Julie Fagan and seconded by Abby Schroeder. Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Fagan and Bisiewicz voted in favor on a roll call with none opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING No. ONE

First National/Aldo's Property- Public Hearing No. One was the Application by Saxton Sign for TD's New Building Signage at the *First National/Aldo's Property* at 271 Main Street.

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

Chair Howe presented the information on the New Building Signage for TD reflecting their updated corporate image. The HDC review will be for the two larger building signs at the North and West building entrances. The Directional signage for the parking and drive-up are not part of the HDC review along with the Building Inspector. Chair Howe noted that TD is considering increasing the size of the Main Street sign. The New Sign could increase in width to match the overall width of the three windows below. The overall height would increase in proportion but still be within the recessed brick area which reflects the Limestone banding on the other portion of this façade. The existing signs were probably installed without the required permits.

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

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Motion by James Mercer to approve the Application as Appropriate noting that sizes and grouping of the elements were replacements with new Business Colors and Graphics. The Main Street Sign could be larger to match the width of the three windows below at the option of the Applicant.

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

PUBLIC HEARING No. TWO

FCC Manse- Public Hearing No. Two was the Application by the First Congregational Church 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.

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

Chuck Hamilton presented the application for the First Congregational Church. Photographs showed the damaged wall and another advertising photo of the new stone proposed for sections. An architect's drawing was presented showing the proposed replacement of the wall to be updated with new concrete footings and foundation walls below grade. The walls above grade will be layered with stone of each side with a concrete wall in the center. The stone will be approximately fifty percent new materials and remainder being salvaged existing wall stone. A precast concrete cap is proposed for replacing the damaged stone units which were approximately two-foot square and three inches thick with a rounded edge. Chair Howe noted that he strongly feels that this new wall will not match the left portion which was repaired several years ago. Fred Clark felt that he could support the precast.

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 Fred Clark to approve the Application as Appropriate for the new below grade concrete footings and walls while above grade the sandwich walls consist of eight inches thick of stone on each side of an eight-inch-thick center concrete wall. The proposed concrete cap will need samples matching the stone for future HDC review as the public hearing was being continued. Also additional data would be brought forward for the costs of new stone replacement for the existing/damaged stone capping.

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.

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OLD BUSINESS

Design Advisory Committee- Chair Howe noted an Alternate for the HDC Regular Member is part of the revised by-laws from Town Meeting. These rules are still awaiting State Attorney General review. Fred Clark volunteered. A Motion to Appoint Fred Clark as the Alternate Member was made by James Mercer and seconded by Julie Fagan. Motion passed on a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Fagan, Clark and Bisiewicz voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans' Memory Garden- Chair Howe noted that the HDC has a successful proposal for Design and Planning Services in the amount of \$2,505.00 from Foresight Land Services who had previously prepared the topographic survey and also working on the step replacement. Our next meetings will probably have an agenda item for general discussion including Steve Mack to determine the program for reuse of the removed Brownstone steps at Town Hall for a "Memory Garden".

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Next Meeting- Next HDC Meeting will be the Regular Meeting on November 19th 2020 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm by Julie Fagan unless there is any objection with a second by Marilyn Bisiewicz.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald V. Howe, Chair
November-19-2020