

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION **Regular Meeting Minutes from April 21st 2022** Town Hall via Zoom 6:30 pm

Attendees-

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

Not Present- Bill Nappo, Alternate

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:36 by Chair Howe with a Roll Call of Attendees.

Meeting Notes for November 18th 2021, December 16th 2021, and February 17th 2022 and March 17th 2022 Regular Meetings were reviewed. Draft Review PDFs of had been distributed to all Members. A Motion by Abby Schroeder was made to approve all the Meeting Notes as written as no corrections had been noted and this motion was seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor on a roll call with none opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mason Library Sculpture- Public Hearing was the Application for the proposed W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture + Plaza Project at the Main Entrance to the Mason Library at 231 Main Street.

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

Julie Michaels, Bobby Houston and Grigori Fateyeu presented their portion of the project. Concept is a gathering space with seating and level areas for tables and events. Schematic drawings were presented showing the proposed work.

The Sculpture will be a full-size seated figure in Bronze. The final selection process of the actual artist has not been completed.

Benches will be set on concrete foundations with a six-inch concrete base with stone seating and backs using Sheffield Marble. Strip lighting would be installed under seating to light the base. Lighting improvements are proposed for the steps and walkways.

The gathering area or plaza will be either grass or hard surface such as a white stone shown in their drawings. The dark green sloped areas shown at the perimeter will be some type of landscaping.

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

Members felt that the presentation was conceptual and would need final documentation and drawings for any final approval. Town officials will need to apply for their portion of the proposed improvements.

Motion by Fred Clark of conceptual approval for the project to proceed. Items limited to the Sculpture, Benches and Plaza being grass. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz.

During discussion, James Mercer made an amendment that the Plaza be grass or appropriate hard surface and was seconded by Abby Schroeder. Fred Clark noted that any surface will need to allow for proper drainage. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed.

Original motion as amended passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed.

Next submission would include details including samples and documentation of the Sculpture, Benches, Lighting, Plaza Materials, etc.

A list of items expected from the Town as part of their Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness would include but be limited to the following- Steps/Stairs repair, Hard surface for Plaza, Lighting at walkways and Landscaping along perimeter.

Motion by Abby Schroeder that the above list be forwarded to the Town Manager with a second by James Mercer. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Town Hall Bandstand Dedication- Abby Schroeder noted that the dedication is being planned for Saturday July 2nd.

Russell House- Chair Howe noted the drawings that were distributed showing the railing for the widow walk. Also, due to the long delivery of original proposed windows, another line is being used with a shorter delivery time. Chair Howe noted that the tall windows at the main entrance will remain with new storm windows. Fred Clark wanted to confirm that the profiles are appropriate.

Searles Castle- Robert Gaughran is preparing data for submittal on repairs to the concrete walls along Main Street adjacent to the Police Station.

FCC Manse- Chair Howe the construction site has been fenced. The Signage for CPA/CPC has been installed. The next phase of work on the southerly and easterly elevations will be coming before the commission in the next few months.

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Town Hall- Marilyn Bisiewicz asked about the status of Veterans' Monuments. Chair Howe noted the site improvements are in the design process for driveways, lighting and possible rest rooms which could affect any relocation.

Renovations- James Mercer expressed his appreciation of the Renovations to the Office Building next to Town Hall by Sally and Fred Harris. He noted specifically that the recent installation of the Porch railings was well done.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Next Meeting- Next HDC Meeting will be the Regular Meeting May 19th 2022 at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm by Abby Schroeder unless there is any objection was seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald V. Howe, Chair
May-19-2022