

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION **Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes from August 17th 2023** Town Hall via Zoom Seminar 5:30 pm

Attendees-

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

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order at 5:45 by Chair Howe with a Roll Call of Attendees. Chair Howe, Vice-Chair Mercer, Secretary Schroeder, Member Clark and Alternate Bisiewicz were present in Town Hall.

Meeting Notes for the May 18th and June 15th 2023 Regular Hybrid Meetings were reviewed. Draft Review PDF had been distributed to all Members. A Motion by James Mercer was made to approve the Meeting Notes for both dates as written and was seconded by Abby Schroeder. Motion passed with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor on a roll call with none opposed.

SITE VISIT Old Fire Station - All Members Present along with Zac Culberth reviewed the status of the existing structure at 14 Castle Street in Great Barrington prior to the start of the Meeting.

ELECTION of Officers - Chair Howe note a call for the annual election of officers prior to any public hearing. Fred Clark made a motion to carry forth the same slate with Donald Howe as Chair, James Mercer as Vice-Chair and Abby Schroeder as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz and passed with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor on a roll call.

PUBLIC HEARING ONE

Mason Library - Public Hearing One was the updated Application by the WEB Du Bois Sculpture Project and the Town of Great Barrington for the Proposed Mason Library Entrance Steps Improvement Plans for the Main Street Entrance of the Mason Library at 231 Main Street in Great Barrington.

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.

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Member Schroeder read aloud the Brief Description from the application. Applicant Grigori Fateyev presented updated drawings and letter from Michael Lynch. Applicant Bobby Houston presented other items along with Julie Michaels and Joe Aberdale.

The following items were reviewed-

- (1) Repair and restoration of stone steps and railings.
- (2) Bollard Lighting.
- (3) Statue Lighting.
- (4) Benches now precast concrete in lieu of marble. Precast samples were presented.
- (5) Stone walkway from Main Street to existing steps.
- (6) Lynch Letter on ADA and historical items.

Public Comments-

- (1) Karen Johnson noted her objection to relinquishing town property to a special interest group.
- (2) Holly Hammer supported accessibility.
- (3) Ed Abrahams noted his general support.
- (4) Steve McAlister commented on handrails, accessibility and lighting.

Additional information was needed including a nighttime rendering on proposed lighting.

Motion by James Mercer to continue the Public Hearing to another date, the next Regular Hybrid Meeting on September 21st. Julie Michaels wrote a note confirming the applicants' agreement.

Motion was then seconded by Fred Clark. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed.

PUBLIC HEARING TWO

Old Fire Station - Public Hearing Two was for the updated application by Zachary Culbreth, AIA for the Castle Street Firehouse LLC for Exterior Lighting, Hard/Landscaping and New Canopy at the Old Fire Station at 20 Castle Street.

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

Zac Culbreth presented drawings including rendering of exterior lighting. Included in the presentation as follows-

- (1) Brick Pavers at the west entrance with step at existing stamped concrete.
- (2) Existing concrete at front façade.
- (3) Concrete Block retaining wall at curved driveway for trucks with two trees in the adjacent planting area.
- (4) Canopy with have zinc metal fascia with stained wood ceiling and recessed lighting.
- (5) New bollard to be installed at the southwesterly corner for traffic control.

Motion by Fred Clark to close 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.

Exterior Lighting was reviewed but Planning Board approval is needed, and changes are expected with their new lighting regulations. Exterior building signage was not part of this

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application. The new paved surface at the planter will be concrete rather than bituminous. Surface will have color matching the existing stamped concrete.

Motion by Fred Clark to approve the New Canopy and the concrete block retaining wall with adjacent concrete paving as Appropriate.

Motion was then seconded by James Mercer. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed. Member Schroeder had left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS- None

OLD BUSINESS- None

Citizen Speak- None

Next Meeting- Next HDC Meeting will be the Regular Hybrid Meeting September 21st 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm by Marilyn Bisiewicz unless there is any objection was seconded by Fred Clark.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald V. Howe, Chair

November-16-2023