

# TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



## **GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION** **Regular Hybrid Meeting Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5:30 by Chair Howe.** Chair Howe, Vice-Chair Mercer, Secretary Schroeder, Member Clark and Alternate Bisiewicz were all present in Town Hall.

Meeting Notes for the August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Hybrid Meetings were reviewed. Draft Review PDFs had been distributed to all Members. A Motion by Abby Schroeder was made to approve the Meeting Notes for all three dates as written and was seconded by James Mercer. Motion passed with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor on a roll call vote with none opposed.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Town Hall -** Public Hearing was the continuation of the public hearing for the application by Foresight Land Services for the Town of Great Barrington for the Proposed Campus Improvement Landscape and Lighting Plan at Town Hall at 334 Main Street in Great Barrington.

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

Steven Mack of Foresight and DPW Head Joe Aberdale presented the updated site drawings and lighting information for the proposed improvements.

The following items were reviewed-

- (1) Pocket Park has steps to upper level eliminated.
- (2) Level area at front of Town Hall will have bollard lights and chains. Pavers will be brick.
- (3) Only one loo is being installed.
- (4) War Monuments up to three with seating.
- (5) Sewer line will be repaired.
- (6) Spruce trees may need to move for entrance steps.
- (7) Noted that bandstand sign is missing.
- (8) Kink in sidewalk to be rounded.
- (9) Number of steps/entrances to raised Gazebo.

# TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



- (10) Planning Board waiver may be needed for lighting.
- (11) Plantings at the southeasterly corner of Town Hall are eliminated.
- (12) Plantings in lieu of lawn may be needed along the accessible walkway.
- (13) Landscaping Plan will be a later submission.
- (14) Signage will also be a later public hearing.
- (15) Orientation of the Gazebo after moving.

Motion by Fred Clark to close the Applicant's presentation and public input was seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor.

Discussion led by James Mercer noted the following findings-

- (1) Walkway plan appropriate.
- (2) No J connection to the pocket park with wider loop.
- (3) Spruce tree elimination to move steps away from Winged Liberty.
- (4) Another step/entrance to the Gazebo at the Pedestrian Tunnel.
- (5) Plans are developing with respect for site improvements set in a "street scape".
- (6) Plans will be updated for review by the Planning Board and the HDC then for final review by the Selectboard.

Motion by James Mercer to continue the Public Hearing to the next Regular Hybrid Meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024. Motion was then seconded by Abby Schroder. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor with none opposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS -**

**Budget -** James Mercer explained the HDC's portion of the installation costs for the Box Art on the Electric Utility Panels in various locations along Main Street. Motion by Fred Clark authorizing payment for \$3,125.00 to the Graphic Artist. Motion was then seconded by Marilyn Bisiewicz. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder and Clark all voting in favor with none opposed.

**Design Advisory -** The Chair noted that some housekeeping needed to be done as the current Advisory HDC Regular and Alternate Members are going to swap their positions. Motion to appoint Fred Clark as the Regular HDC Member on the Design Advisory Board with James Mercer becoming the Alternate HDC Member for the current fiscal year was made by Marilyn Bisiewicz with a second by Fred Clark. Motion passed by a roll call vote with Howe, Mercer, Schroeder, Clark and Bisiewicz all voting in favor. Chair Howe will send the appropriate correspondence to the Town Clerk's Office.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

**Planning Board Lighting Standards -** Chair Howe expressed interest in attending any exemption request by Zac Culberth for the Old Fire House. Chair feels strongly that the new lighting standards are limiting the impact and aesthetics of lighting that can be implemented.

# TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS



**New Regular Member** - Chair Howe noted the open regular Member position has pending appointment of Carrie Chen by the Selectboard.

**MHC Planning Grants** - Chair Howe has applied for matching funding grants under the current Massachusetts Historical Commission's program which accepted applications through November 15<sup>th</sup> for funding during the State Fiscal Year 2024.

**Member Speak-**

**Library Improvements** - Marilyn Bisiewicz brought everyone's notice the major site improvements that are underway at front of the Ramsdell Library in Housatonic.

**Citizen Speak-** None

**Next Meeting-** Next HDC Meeting will be the Regular Hybrid Meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 5:30 pm.

**Motion to adjourn** at 7:15 pm by Abby Schroeder unless there is any objection was seconded by James Mercer.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donald V. Howe, Chair  
January-18-2024