



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2012

Town Hall

6:30 p.m.

Attendees

James Mercer
Barbara Syer
Craig Okerstrom-Lang
Don Howe
Holly Troiano
Pat Ryan

Jennifer Clark, guest

Absent: Dan Bailly

Meeting opened and called to order by Chairman Mercer

Motion by Ms. Triano to accept minutes from October 4, 2012 public meeting.

Second by Ms Syer

All in favor.

Motion by Mr. Mercer: there are various components that have not finalized including the touch pads, wiring for the conduit that will provide holiday and events, and luminaries for the historic lighting. We will report back to the Selectmen on these issues at a future date.

Second by Mr. Okerstrom-Lang

All in favor.

Additional conflict of interest forms to be filled out and given to the Town Clerk.

Pat Ryan is stepping down from the HDC due to a change in work schedule. We commend Ms. Ryan for her service to the HDC and the community.



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Main Street Design

- Crosswalk pads will be burgundy color
- Street tree size upgrade: Mr. Okerstrom-Lang recommending that the specified tree sizes and species be installed after discussions with Dennis Gibbons, GB Tree Committee Chair.
- Wiring is in the project budget to the load center and base of new crosswalk ornamental lights to power holiday lighting.
- Load center is right now at the NW corner of Main and Railroad Streets in the sidewalk next to Tune Street on RR St. Mr. Okerstrom-Lang recommends that the load center be located off of the street, behind a building such as the former Caligari Hardware Building. The load centers are quite large and take up allot of valuable pedestrian space. Plus they tend to get hit by vehicles and require heavy metal bollards.

Street Lighting

Joanne DeRose
Utility & Customer Management
National Grid

Ornamental Lighting

HDC invited Ms. DeRose to discuss the ornamental lighting at the crosswalks.

Specified for our Main Street project is the Williamsville pole and the Washington luminaire. Joanne spoke with Paula _____ in National Grid street lighting and legal and The Grid wants to standardize their lighting systems. They will not allow for a switch of the luminaries to a different brand or model.

Mr. Mercer: is there an option for the Town to buy the lights? Yes once they are installed it could happen but they are depreciated.

Mr. Okerstrom-Lang asked about shielding. Ms. DeRose: They offer a neighbor friendly--apartment shield but that has to be included in the order. Alex Groshev is assigned to this project as The Grid's Representative. The Town needs to alert him if this is wanted.

The same lights specified for GB Main Street have only been installed in Rockport, MA to date by The Grid. They used Metal Halide. The Grid has the same electrical arrangement there as with GB. Ms. Clark: what wattage will the light bulbs be? Maybe 175 watt, not sure yet.

Cobra Head Lighting



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The Cobra Heads will they be much brighter than we have now? No, they will tend to be about the same. They provide only the 175 watt, nothing different. They have about a two-year life span.

Ms. DeRose: once the lights are installed they do tend to soften a bit. Communities grow accustomed to new light levels. Metal halide as it ages tends to go pinkish which is when the bulbs need to be replaced.

Mr. Howe: our crosswalks now are very dangerous and poorly lit. The new lights will make this much safer.

Ms. Clark: are our cross walk lights the same ones that are at the Lee Outlet Village? Not sure.

Mr. OL: What color are the light poles? Black.

Ms. DeRose: any time we offer any other pieces of lighting equipment we have to go before the MA DPU. Very difficult to change anything.

The Grid has service agreements with every town especially for the cobra head lighting. Ms. DeRose covers 38 towns in the region. The "Tariff" or contract is what The Grid operates by. If the Town wishes to have their own lights they could come up with an agreement for the Town to supply their own lights. The Grid would be paid a higher commercial rate and meter charge if this happens.

Mr. Howe: you have economies in high quantity purchases? Ms. DeRose, yes.

Summary from Discussion above

The Town could change the light styles if funding was found to pay for this. At this time there is no funding from grants to pay for this.

Mr. Howe: The Historic Commission probably has more say in the light selection noting their purview concerning the whole town in historical matters.



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Historical and Cultural Resources Map for Master Plan by Don Howe

This is a draft map for review. The boundary of the West and Taconic Avenues Historic District seems incorrect.

The district resources have changed and should be updated. The Historical Commission has recommended that this be done by professionals versus volunteers.

Chris Rembold is moving forward on a historic signage system. He is invited to our next meeting to discuss this in more detail. The HDC should be involved with this process.

This is an ideal grant to apply for to Mass Historic.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Mercer

Second by Mr. Howe

All in favor

Next HDC meeting December 20, 2012 at 6:30pm