



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2012

PRESENT for Site Visit and Public Hearing:

James Mercer, Chairman
Donald Howe
Barbara Syer
Patricia Ryan
Craig Okerstrom-Lang, Secretary
Dan Bailey, alternate

Absent: Marilyn Kalish; Holly Triano, alternate

A site visit was conducted at 5:45pm at 241 Main Street, First Congregational Church to meet the mason, William H. Parsons, and see his work under construction for the stone wall on Church Street near the barn. They are requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness. Barbara Syer recused herself due to conflict of interest.

Notes from field visit:

- Old lilacs removed from front/north side of wall; these led to problems with the wall by not allowing the wall to completely dry.
- Interior was mostly "sand" joints.
- Stone has atmospheric pressure.
- Mr. Parsons is making up some replacement pieces for wall caps and column capstones from stone dust he has collected on site.
- He will not seal the stone.
- Stone joints are rough right now. He will hand tool them to reflect the existing stone joints in the west wall.



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This public meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Mercer.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 17, 2012

MOTION: Dan Bailly
SECOND: Craig Okerstrom-Lang
VOTE: Unanimous

Move to Agenda Item VI on posted Agenda: discussion of proposed Main Street lighting.

Members from Historical Commission in attendance: Bill Nappo, Paul Ivory and David Rutstein. Historical Commission was asked by the Selectmen to research the history of street lights in GB which they presented to the Selectmen.

Joe Sokul DPW chief presented proposed pedestrian lights at the crosswalks; his comments:

- National Grid owns the street lights.
- Cobra Heads will illuminate the actual street. They are brushed aluminum.
- The ornamental lights presented are by National Grid and called "Aspen Grove". These will be 15' tall, color black, and will illuminate the crosswalks on Main Street within the project area. There will be 20 ornamental lights in project
- Nat grid maintains lights if they get broken and does bulb replacement, not the Town.

Chairman asked about owning versus leasing the lights from Nat Grid. Town does not want to do this due to not having the trained staff to maintain electrical.

Chairman Mercer asked Mr. Sokul to apply for a formal public hearing with HDC concerning the lights and the total Main St project. Hopefully they will come before the HDC soon.

Mr. Sokul reported that Town Hall repair bids have come in for the balustrade and column work at the front door and porch area; 3 bidders; have accepted the low apparent bidder at this time.



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Discussion afterwards on VI:

- Paul Ivory: prefers "Williamsville" light, from 40-50's.
- Historical Commission will be invited to any public hearing concerning the Main Street project.

Agenda item IV Public Hearing Application for Certificate of Appropriateness from First Congregational Church, 241 Main Street, Great Barrington: proposed renovations to a wall. No representative from the Church was in attendance. Barbara Syer recused herself and left the room due to conflict of interest.

Discussion:

- a) Unfortunately the wall work is almost finished versus having an application submitted to HDC PRIOR to beginning work. Specifications submitted by Bill Parsons, Mason that are very detailed.
- b) Taking half of the wall down, re-pointing, resetting, and some new caps made on site
- c) Cap seems to be in good condition but the internal wall was in poor condition.
- d) Mason has taken scrapings from the stone and has had a supplier makes new mortar.
- e) Paul Ivory: Are there any records of the before and after images of this wall?
- f) Mr. Okerstrom-Lang recommended that the grade be cut back to reduce runoff from running directly into the open staircase. Mr. Howe said we do not have jurisdiction over landscaping or driveway materials.

Motion to issue a Cert of Appropriateness to repair the 22' of the dolomite wall and gate columns on Pleasant Street off the Manse with the following concerns and information requests from the applicant:

- 1) Looking for a complete list of materials including chemicals, polymer, etc used in addition to Mr. Parsons's specifications.
- 2) Wall joints: we want to ensure that the joints are similar style to those on the rest of the Manse.
- 3) Site grading should be checked.
- 4) We would like a copy of the original specifications that the mason bid on.
- 5) We would like a copy of his construction photos, both before, during and after.
- 6) We would like to see the iron pintel hinges preserved within the gate column.



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MOTION: Dan Bailly
SECOND: Donald Howe
VOTE: Unanimous

V. OLD BUSINESS: Premier Insurance, 304 Main Street, Great Barrington. Continue discussion per site inspection. Mr. Howe reported that the applicant has taken down the sign and is installing a new sign and support system that will meet our approval.