



JAMES J. MERCER
CHAIRMAN

DONALD V. HOWE
CRAIG OKERSTROM-LANG
BARBARA SYER
HOLLY TROIANO

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MASSACHUSETTS

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ALTERNATES:
DANIEL BAILLY
MARILYN KALISH

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Present: James Mercer, Chairman
Barbara Syer, Secretary
Dan Bailly
Don Howe
Craig Okerstrom-Lang
Pat Ryan

MOTION: By Pat Ryan to accept meeting minutes – with corrections. Change Housatonic (walking tour) to Great Barrington and spelling of percola to pergola.

SECOND: Dan Bailly

VOTE: Unanimous

Old Business: Certificate of Appropriateness was issued and sent to Mason Library Trustees and to Town of Great Barrington in response to application by Holly Hamer.

Under this Commission's purview of street scapes, Don Howe thought the image that Sculpture Now had put on the Mason Library last summer was left on display too long and said that the permit granting should have come before this commission. Ann Jons, the director of Sculpture Now, will be notified of this requirement.

Chairman Mercer asked those members present who had been at the meeting called by Town Planner, Chris Rembold, at the new Fire Station on January 5, 2012 – Craig Okerstrom-Lang, Don Howe, Barbara Syer, Dan Bailly and Pat Ryan for their comments. Some comments were: Committee looking for Historical Resources. Don Howe explained we had tried to expand District to include South Main Street and another try for all on Main Street but it had failed at Town Meeting. Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage considering downtown office space. Taconic West Avenue District considered – three forms – brown and white. 250th events so successful – could there be more like those events.

Don Howe said there are two issues: Library Trustees and Director want the third floor of Ramsdell clear of historical artifacts; unknown ownership of artifacts. He thought the Town should pay for an inventory, transportation, and display of artifacts.

Craig Okerstrom-Lang working with Downtown Design group said Ed McCormick suggested a "Stanley" lamp that John DeLand could make. They are planning a map to show parking – particularly of Fridays when many shop in Great Barrington and to where the construction will be on certain dates.

Chairman Mercer suggested a title of "A Greater Barrington in the Future" and some sort of signage for the historical spots – maybe sidewalks or on buildings – could use logo of the Washington Cenataph. It was thought that if the three historical committees asked the Upper Housatonic Heritage for matching money, it might be given funding. Chairman Mercer to bring in designs at next meeting and will talk to Paul Ivory.

Great Barrington does not have "Demolition Delay" by-law. Chris Skelly at MHC could help.

NEXT MEETING: February 16, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
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Alternates:
Walter Atwood
Marilyn Kalish
Craig Okerstrom-Lang

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Room 337, The State House
Boston, MA 02133

December 26, 2011

Dear Secretary Galvin:

I am writing this letter in support of the Saint James Place's application for MHC Tax Credits.

In 2010, as you know, the Saint James group stepped in to prevent the imminent demolition of the property and since that time have developed a comprehensive plan to restore and repurpose the entire complex. Most recently they have begun work on the north and west walls of the main church painstakingly restoring the exterior walls stone by stone.

We continue to support this initiative and hope that your Commission will as well so that this wonderful piece of Great Barrington is preserved.

Sincerely,



James J. Mercer
Chairman