

Historic District Commission
334 Main St. Town Hall
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Special Meeting Minutes
11/05/2014

Meeting Opened: 6:35 pm

HDC Members Present:

- Don Howe, Chair
- Dan Bailey, Vice Chair
- Holly Troian, Secretary
- Barbara Syer, member

Absent: James Mercer

Planning Board Presenta:

- Jonathan Hankin, Chair
- Malcolm Fick, member

Historical Commission Present:

- Marilyn Bisiewicz, member
- Malcolm Fick, member
- Don Howe, member
- Gary Leveille, member
- David Rutstein, member

Chris Rembolt, Town Planner

- Meeting is opened by the Chair, Don Howe, who welcomes all in attendance including guests. He introduces Chris Skelly, Director of Local Programs for Mass. Historical Society, to give a talk about Demolition Delay Bylaws and Ordinances.
- **Power Point (to be provided by Mr. Skelly)**
- Mr. Skelly entertained questions from those in attendance.
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Special Meeting of the combined HDC and HC

Meeting Opened: 8:10 pm

- Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the pros and cons of combining the two committees.
- Chris Skelly reviewed the pros and cons from his perspective:

- Pros - There is a larger pool of people to be sure the committee is fully appointed
- It is clearer to the public to have one commission
 - One meeting

Cons - It can be easy to forget local HD issues and focus on HDC issues

- Possible names could be; GB Historic Commission, GB Preservation Commission
- It would require a town bylaw change
- Review of HDC membership requirements, it was noted that the rules suggest a realtor, architect, and others but after 30 days, if no one steps up, the town may fill the available slot with anyone.
- Don notes that it would be a good idea because of low numbers on the HDC
- Gary Leveille (HC) pointed out possible challenges with “changing hats” from HDC to HC responsibilities
- Holly pointed out that the two commissions are often confused by the public and because of the confusion it inhibits the public’s understanding of the positives of both.
- Chris Skelly maintained that the divisions are clear that the HC has planning responsibilities and the HDC has regulatory responsibilities
- Chris Rembolt agreed with Chris Skelley that the public would appreciate the clarity of a single committee
- It was pointed out the any suggestion of a combined commission would have to come from the HDC even though the planning of the HC is very important
- There was more discussion about the pros and cons of combining the two commissions

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 pm

Ally M. Trumbo
Secretary