

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS
GREAT BARRINGTON DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2015
Selectmen's Meeting Room - Town Hall 6:30 pm

Members present:

Dan Bailly, Chair
Don Howe, Vice Chair
Holly Troiano, Secretary
Jim Mercer
Barbara Syer
Pat Ryan, alternate

Call to Order by Chair Bailly at 6:34 pm

Chair Bailly: First order of business, public hearing. Motion to open a public hearing made by H. Troiano, second by B. Syer. Public hearing opened at 6:35 pm for the purpose of discussion of work conducted at the Mahaiwe Theater.

- David Barrett, Director of Development apologized on behalf of the Mahaiwe for moving ahead with repairs to the front steps of the Mahaiwe Theater without consulting the HDC. He further explained the repairs done to the front steps were done by Allegrone, they are still the original steps and they were done in granite and mortar similar to the original. He also noted no other problems were found and the steps look better now that they have been fixed.
- Chair Bailly asked if there was a schedule for exterior maintenance to which D. Barrett replied there was, every 1, 5, and 10 years for the roof and facade. Chair Bailly noted that the HDC could not require a schedule for our files but we would appreciate one.
- D. Barrett noted that the next repairs would be to the marquee.
- D. Howe asked that any painting should also be brought to the attention of the HDC. He also noted that grant money was paying for interior painting.
- D. Barrett pointed out that they had gone to Mass. Historical who told them to check with the local HDC and that was how they knew to get in touch with our HDC.
- J. Mercer made a motion to close the Public Hearing that was seconded by B. Syer.
- J. Mercer made a motion to approve repairs and that the HDC appreciated the efforts of the Mahaiwe to come in and explain why they had not applied to the HDC before repairs were done. The committee finds the repairs to be appropriate. The motion was seconded by B. Syer.
- The vote was unanimously in favor. Voting: Dan Bailly, Don Howe, Holly Troiano, Jim Mercer, and Barbara Syer.
Opposed, none.
- Chair Bailly will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness next week.

Approval of July 30, 2015 minutes

- J. Mercer made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, D. Howe seconded the motion.
- The vote was unanimously in favor. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, J. Mercer, and B. Syer.

Approval of October 1, 2015 minutes

- A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by D. Howe and seconded by H. Troiano.
- Vote: In favor, D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, J. Mercer. B. Syer abstained.

Chair Bailly called for a motion to open a Public Hearing pertaining to signage at 322 Main St. J. Mercer made a motion to open a public hearing, B. Syer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, J. Mercer, B. Syer.

- Ryan and Jessica Larkin, owners of Larkin Ltd. at 322 Main St., brought signs for approval to the HDC. They were similar in design to the signs used by the Vault at the same address. One sign will hang from a black bracket, green with black lettering. Signs will also appear on the 4 windows facing Castle St.
- D. Howe noted that the lettering should also be approved.
- J. Mercer pointed out that Design Advisory has already approved the signs.
- H. Troiano made a motion to close the public hearing that was seconded by J. Mercer. The vote was unanimous to close the public hearing. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, J. Mercer, B. Syer.

Discussion:

- J. Mercer asked about the height of the sign.
- R. Larkin said the sign would be 10ft. high and 3ft. wide with invisible screws.
- J. Mercer made a motion to approve the signage as appropriate to Main St. on the shingle sign and wall mounted sign. B. Syer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the signage. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, J. Mercer, B. Syer.

Old Business:

First Congregational Church

- D. Howe went to the First Congregational Church to look into their intention of remortaring the manse. He noted that they should have sent us some notification so that the HDC would know it was a repair that did not require approval.
- Chair Bailly suggested the HDC send a letter to all the HDC properties requesting notification in the interest of clarification. It would aid the HDC as well as serve as a reminder to property managers to notify the HDC of pertinent maintenance and repairs. This should help to avoid problems and conflicts. The Chair also suggested a schedule of maintenance be included to the HDC.
- H. Troiano suggested that the tone of the letter be one of protecting property owners/managers and helping them to remember what types of repairs and maintenance need to come before the HDC.
- D. Howe pointed out that major work is needed on the manse and suggested to Sherman Powell (the Sexton) that Dan Pierce, the original architect, go to the manse to see what renovations need to be done. D. Howe knows the builder who saw an 8-10ft.

crack right through the stone that requires structural evaluation. The Building Inspector agreed.

Historic Markers

- D. Howe, at the last meeting of the Historic Commission, suggested they should develop markers that describe historic sites. They should design a format for the signs. The suggestion received positive feedback.

Incorrect report in the Berkshire Record

- D. Howe pointed out that the Berkshire Record incorrectly reported that a demolition delay was built into all Historic District buildings.
- Chair Bailly explained that the HDC should have one built into every HDC building 50+ years and older.
- D. Howe reported that the Historic Commission would like our support at the January Selectboard meeting to get in on the ballot.

Budget

- Chair Bailly suggested requesting for the same amount as last year and making sure it includes monies for the pedestal.
- D. Howe wants to do Form Bs for a potential district and overlapping properties into the Taconic West District. Form B is defined as an historic survey of a building submitted to Mass. Historical. It is a record.

Time Capsule

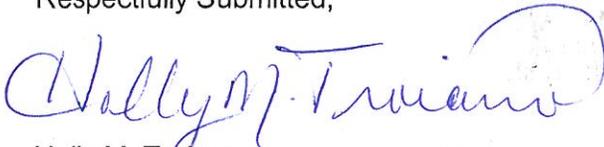
- D. Howe will attempt to see the time capsule buried on Saturday.

D. Howe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by H. Troiano. The vote was unanimous in favor. Voting: D. Bailly, D. Howe, H. Troiano, B. Syer, P. Ryan (alternate as J. Mercer had to leave early).

Meeting Adjourned: 7:28 pm

Next Meeting: 1/21/2016

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly M. Troiano
Secretary, HDC