

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON MASSACHUSETTS
GREAT BARRINGTON DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2016
Selectmen's Meeting Room - Town Hall 6:30 pm

Members present:

Dan Bailley, Chair
Don Howe, Vice Chair
Holly Troiano, Secretary
Jim Mercer
Pat Ryan, alternate

Call to Order: By Chair Bailley at 6:32pm

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve the 1/20/2016 meeting minutes with corrections was made by P. Ryan and seconded by J. Mercer. The vote was unanimously in favor with Dan Bailley abstaining.

Public Hearing: Signage for Castle and Main St.

- Owners Ryan and Jessica Larkin were present to answer questions.
- Two additional signs are requested and have been previously approved by Design Advisory.
- P. Ryan noted that the design of the signs are in keeping with the age of the building, D. Bailley agreed.
- After some confusion about the request that included an impromptu visit to see the signs up close, the public hearing was closed.
- Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by P. Ryan and seconded by D. Howe. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Findings: D. Howe recommended the new lettering for the round top windows on Main St. and Castle St. be approved.

- A motion to accept the signs for the round top windows on Castle and Main streets as submitted was made by H. Troiano, seconded by Jim Mercer. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Public Hearing: 322 Main St.

- Motion was made to open the public hearing by J. Mercer, seconded by H. Troiano.
- There was some discussion about the proposed sign being to close in design to the historic markers promoted by the HDC and the HC.
- An alternative was suggested; The "Historic Site 1904" should be removed, remaining lettering moved to the center with the ornamental scroll on the top and the bottom.
- Motion to close the public hearing was made by D. Howe, seconded by H. Troiano.

- A motion to approve the sign 36 x 20 with the lettering moved to the center and ornamental scrolling above and below the lettering with "Historic Site 1904" removed, was made by J. Mercer, seconded by H.Troiano.
- The vote was unanimous in favor.

New Business:

- Malcolm Fick of the HC presented the proposed demolition delay bylaw and stated its purpose as to provide "breathing space" to be able to negotiate saving historic buildings.
- M. Fick shared a list of variables of existing bylaws and conditions in other towns and noted that monies from MHC and CPA had recently been made available.
- Details of how it would function can be found in the proposed bylaw.
- It is a general bylaw not a zoning bylaw and would include Housatonic.
- HDC buildings are excluded.
- The proposed bylaw will be presented to the Selectboard on April 11 and hopefully put on the Town Warrant for the May.
- A motion to support the proposed bylaw as presented was made by P.Ryan, seconded by D. Howe. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- D. Howe noted that the HDC should determine as approach for bringing in new buildings in cooperation with advice from Chris Skelley of Mass. Historical. St. James Place wants to come into the district and enthusiasm for preservation is currently high making this a good time to consider new procedures.
- Goal for 2017, clean up the procedure and be able to clearly explain to the public who we are and how we operate.

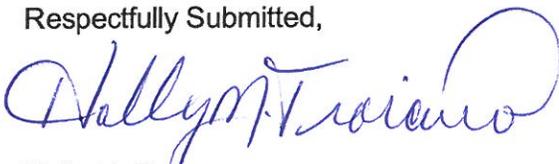
April meeting date will be left open to a possible combined meeting with the HC.

Next scheduled meeting, May 19, 2016

Motion to adjourn made by H. Troiano, second by J. Mercer. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly M. Troiano

Secretary

Historic District Commission

Great Barrington, MA 01236