

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS



GREAT BARRINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes from January 19th, 2017

Town Hall

6:30 pm

Attendees-

Donald Howe, Chair
James Mercer, Vice-Chair
Holly Troiano, Secretary
Barbara Syer, Member
Patricia Ryan, Alternate

Not Present- Abby Schroder, Alternate

Attending- Chris Rembold, Town Planner
Alan Kalish, Vault Gallery; Press Member

Meeting opened and called to order by Chair Howe at 6:32 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Vault Sign Application- The application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for updating an existing sign went beyond the 45-day limit for scheduling a Public Hearing. Chair Howe noted that there would not be a Public Hearing and thus no discussion. The Sign Modification would go ahead with a "constructive approval" under a Certificate of Hardship.

Motion made by James Mercer for the Constructive Approval of the Revised Vault Signage and seconded by Holly Troiano. Motion passed with members Howe, Mercer, Troiano, Syer and Ryan voting in favor (None opposed) of issuing a Certificate of Hardship.

Town Planner- Chris Rembold, Town Planner, came before the Board asking for a letter of support for the Town's proposed grant to MHA for an amount up to \$100,000 for the Roof Replacement and Repairs at Town Hall.

The Project has an estimated cost of \$250,000 and was reviewed and approved by the HDC last year.

Motion made by James Mercer for a letter of support to be written by Chair and with a second by Barbara Syer. All present voted in favor.

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HDC Budget- Chair Howe presented a summary of the current budget with pending and proposed expenditures. The Current Budget is \$14,687.70 and would have a projected 2018 budget increase of \$2,500. The Members reviewed expenditures and budget amounts and consensus was that the Chair should ask for increased funding for fiscal 2018.

Motion made by James Mercer for the Chair to request an increase of budget funding to \$5,000 for Fiscal 2018 and with a second by Patricia Ryan. All present voted in favor.

Chair reviewed by the Projects and their amounts under consideration. Restoration of the Exedra Seating will need to be addressed at our next meeting. The present work going ahead include periodic maintenance of the Winged Victory in the amount of \$7,500 and Form B's for changed parcels in the Taconic West Avenue Historic District.

Motion made by Holly Troiano to proceed with these two items and with a second by Patricia Ryan. All present voted in favor.

Transformer Graphics- James Mercer noted the Proposal for Historic Graphic Panels showing historic views of Great Barrington should move ahead. The Plastic sheeting would be attached to the new Electrical Transformers which were installed during the Main Street Improvements. James Mercer will obtain pricing for review at the next meeting.

Historic Markers- Chair Howe noted that he had an inquiry about the minimum number of synthetic signage for an initial order. A revised quote had been obtained for a single unit cost of \$65.00 each as opposed to the minimum order of five units.

Vacant Member Position- Chair Howe noted that a candidate was possibly coming to this meeting. Julie Fagan was mentioned as a possible candidate for the interested that she showed regarding the Historic Markers and her involvement with the Historical Society. James Mercer will approach her to see if she available. All present were in favor and thus she should write a letter to the Selectboard for membership.

Ethics Training and Open Meeting Regulations- Chair distributed packets to those present.

32 Bridge Street Project- Chair Howe noted that Benchmark is in process of furnishing additional information to the Planning Board and to the Selectboard for the Special Permit.

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Chair Howe has confirmed that the HDC review of the final site plan and the building may happen after action by the Selectboard.

Veterans' Graves Book- Chair Howe noted a WPA Project listing of Veterans' Graves in the Town was forwarded from the Cemetery Commissions to the Historical Commission. The Book has been digitized and will be available in the future. Town Manager is scheduling a meeting with various Town Officials prior to issuing a Press Release.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

Motion to adjourn by Barbara Syer with a second by Patricia Ryan.
All present voted in favor.

Next HDC Regular Meeting is scheduled for February 16th, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald V. Howe', is written over a horizontal line.

Donald V. Howe, Chair

February-28-2017