

Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes March 9, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM. David Honn (DH), Scott Kutil (SK), Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann, Michaela Moran (MM), and David Barrat (DB) were present. Terra Friedrichs and Maya Minkin were absent. The meeting was held in Room 126 in Town Hall.

MM said that she received a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the proposed MBTA train station and another letter from the Commonwealth regarding public documents.

The February 9, 2010 minutes were approved as corrected.

Citizen's Concerns were heard at 7:55 p.m. Irene Elinovsky from 71 School Street was present to talk about her satellite dish. Irene said that they intended to install the dish at the back of the house, but when the company came to install the dish they put it in the front of the house. She also said she was not aware that satellite dishes were in our jurisdiction. MM said that a dish is a structure and if it is going to be in front of the house for more than a year then it is in the Commission's jurisdiction. Irene said that she would call and ask the company to move it. The Commission told Irene that she could find the HDC regulations regarding satellite dishes on the Town's website.

At 8 p.m. Wayne Hinckley was present to talk about application #1007 for a new doorway at 578 Mass. Ave. Wayne said that the new doorway is needed because the Town Building Inspector has required handicapped access in the front of the building. KAB suggested that they use a white finish rather than proposed aluminum finish. SK motioned to approve the application as written with the changes that were submitted by Wayne: the Tubelite standard narrow style door in aluminum finish and tempered glass and the door hardware to match. The condition pending abutter notification was added to the motion along with the findings that the door being replaced is an aluminum door, and therefore a replacement in kind, and the tempered glass is an improvement over the wire mesh glass in the old door. The motion was approved unanimously. DB will act as liaison for this application.

At 8:30 p.m. we discussed an amendment to the Certificate of Approval #1001, for an addition at 11 Chadwick St. DH was recused from this discussion because he is an abutter. Frank Ramsbottom, when he was there for an inspection, caught the fact that the addition at 11 Chadwick that we approved was built larger than we approved. MM said that the additional 1 ft. 6 inches is on the south side of the structure, which is not visible from the public way. MM motioned that we approve an amendment to the application that will contain the as built dimensions. SK seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. SK will send the applicant a letter and an amended COA with the new dimensions.

Next we discussed the dam at 113 Main Street, application #1006. MM thought that we needed a public hearing and DH agreed. However, DH said that he could not see where the abutment is on the drawings and suggested that we ask for more information. MM agreed and said that we

will return the application to them and ask for more information and not schedule a public hearing until we receive the new information.

KAB reported on the upcoming HDC retreat that we will have on Saturday March 13 at the Memorial Library. She has reserved the large meeting room in the library for the retreat and the three former Chairs of the HDC will attend the retreat for a panel discussion.

SK reported on the HDC signs. He said that Corey York told him that the Town will be acquiring some layout as part of the WAVE project and the sign at the eastern edge of the West Acton District could be located in this new Town layout. He said that there is really no good place to put a sign at the intersection of Arlington Street and Route 111. MM suggested that we put the sign at Wright Terrace, which crosses Route 111. SK will ask Corey if Wright Terrace is a better location.

MM passed out a letter to the Massachusetts Housing Authority that she had written regarding the 40B development at 111-113 School St. DH was recused from this discussion because he is an abutter. After hearing comments from the Commission members MM said she would revise the letter.

KAB said that in regards to the sections of the Master Plan that the Commission is supposed to contribute she felt that the Commission should push back and ask the Town for a consultant to help us with this effort.

DH said that he has not been able to meet with Steve Su regarding the window violations. DH will try to meet with him before our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.