

Historic District Commission
Town Hall, Room 9
Meeting Minutes, December 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM. Attending: Fran Arsenault (FA), David Honn (DH), Ron Regan (RR), Anita Rogers (AR), not present David Shoemaker, David Foley, Chingsung Chang (CC, Selectmen Representative)

Move to approve Nov 10 Minutes; accepted unanimously

Fran has put together the HDC calendar for 2016 with room assignments for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

The Acton Woman's Club has requested a CNA for their lift and smoke detector installations so the CPC Committee will release their funds.

7:35pm Citizens Questions: artwork for the True West sign per the scale suggested at the previous meeting has been submitted per request.

7:37pm 85 School Street – Application #1539 RR has reached out to the owners to come to a meeting to discuss their proposed project but they are traveling. RR will forward a copy of a previous submission of a garage addition so the owner can have a better understanding of what will be required to get approval for both a building permit and an approval from the HDC for new construction in the District.

7:50 HDC retreat discussion:
Possible dates – Jan 16, 23, or 30 from 9am-1pm
Include invitations to former members?
What to discuss / possible topics?

- HDC designation attached to property deed
- Pending CPC application for district zoning changes
- Minimum maintenance bylaw ie. demo by neglect
- Sign bylaw updates
- Comparison of 40c state law / 40p local law
- National Registry listings to help protect properties
- Mass Historic Commission video by Chris Shelly
- Book about HDC's in MA

- 8:15pm 537 Mass Ave. Application #1534B. Lucy Goldstein has brought additional design possibilities for the directional sign for the Wellness Center.
AR: This is a challenge since the entry is so isolated from the rest of the courtyard. A hanging sign will seem to relate more to the tenant behind the sign than to the actual location around the corner. I like the sign wrapping the corner but am hoping it can be more artful. RR would like to see the sign offset from the cornerboards so it is not competing with the trim. DH: is both interested and willing to try metal, something that is more sculptural. Lucy will speak to a sign designer in hopes of finding a final idea that accomplishes the goal of reinforcing the directions to the Wellness location but is picturesque, not cumbersome.
- 9:00 12 Concord Road –Acton Congregational Church. David Clough and Brad Maxwell have come to the HDC to request a support letter for their CPC application which is for 2 projects.
Project 1 - \$50,000 Master Plan study by OMR to review both houses on the property as well as the church building with regard to their preservation / renovation .
Project 2 - \$47,000 quote to preserve and protect the stained glass windows.
- 9:30 Exchange Hall – Still awaiting fence samples so discussion will be postponed until a later date.
- 9:40 Move to adjourn; seconded and voted unanimously