

Historic District Commission
Town Hall, Room 121
Meeting Minutes, 10 August 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM. Attending: Anita Rogers (AR), Fran Arsenault (FA), Ron Regan (RR), David Honn (DH); David Shoemaker (DS)

7:33 Move to approve May 24, June 28th, and July 12 Minutes; accepted unanimously.

7:32 Citizen questions, member notes:
AR talked with John Laidler, Boston Globe. Looking for a "Pro argument" on the issue of the appropriateness of using CPA funds for church restoration; would like someone to write a 350 word piece that defends the pro argument. We will contact possible contributors.
DH heard that the 43 School St has had some tree work done by the town, and things were not wrapped up correctly; we will contact the town.

7:40 Review Spreadsheet, update

7:48 Sara Chase/Town Hall Paint Forum, with Andrea Ristine: Original Town Hall Paint Colors are the subject. 1) Where did the old colors come from? 2) When and why did the Town Hall color change color?

Target date of 31 August, 7:30 pm for a public meeting and discussion on the issue. Acton Historical Society is a great resource for images of Town Hall. Plan for a dry run of the presentation to work out kinks and transitions. Discussions of subtle variations on the original scheme, and the lack of knowledge about the evolution of today's paint in the sun. The *Images of Acton* by William A. Klauer has a cover photo in sepia that appears to have the scheme of the original paint job with different trim and body colors. Want to connect to the historic dignity of the building -- and the town; and to bring home that it was *not* always white -- only since 1942!

FA to make a poster. Want to advertise well. Try to set a room for a dry run. Dry run planned for 23 August.

8:31 48 Windsor Avenue. Joseph O'Donoghue. RR recuses himself. Repair of the back elements of the house; found damage, foundation problematic, and the vinyl siding must be removed. Longer plan to remove all the vinyl siding, and throw out plastic shutters. A lot of the detailed molding has been lost. The goal is to rebuild the structure as necessary and restore the missing detail; then add a 14' x 19' deck to the back of the house, 1-2 ft above grade. Jenks library (at the Hosmer house) is very useful for old photos. If the porch is more than 30" above grade, the height of the porch railing would typically be required to be 36". The existing front porch railing is certainly lower than that. The building dept. might be open to a discussion if that is an issue. It is agreed that posts that are not structurally needed can be removed. Deck would be close to ground -- easy to camouflage with plantings. Discussion of windows for the future -- HDC members note that old windows are very much more weather resistant than new windows. AR notes that the abutter notices went out 5 August.

Move that we approve the application #1621, 48 Windsor Ave. Removal of vinyl siding, structural repairs of right side porch, restoration of missing details, removal of the existing second back door (to be replaced with siding). The project also includes a 14'x19' back deck that will be only a few steps above grade. The deck will not require railings (any deviation to that will require a new discussion). Wood decking will be used.

Approved unanimously.

RR Returns

9:04 Revolution Yoga Signage. #1624. Kyra Marino. Sign application includes artwork that is similar to previously approved signs for the same business. The proposed projecting sign is 18" wide x 4' high, "Yoga" would be raised lettering. It is attached to the building with a pair of minimally visible metal brackets at the edge. The background and edges are painted red.

DHS asks for some sort of elaboration of the edge to help make it appear substantial and three-dimensional -- thickness is likely to help take care of this.

DH: suggests a notch around the perimeter (outside and bottom edges) to give a shadow detail; RR perhaps a chamfer and/or a radiused notch around the face near the edge on both sides. Location on building:

Recommend that the bottom of the sign be placed about 8" from the bottom of the adjacent window casing.

Move that we approve the installation of a blade sign at 541 Massachusetts Ave. per the submitted artwork. The sign will be 18" x 48" with a red background and white letters and the "yoga" lettering will be raised. Changes to include the addition of a notch along the leading and bottom edge of the sign and on all four edges of the two faces about 3/4" from the outside edge. Existing fonts sizes should be downsized accordingly. The bracket will also be per the artwork and fully attached to the edge of the sign only. The sign will be located approximately 8" below the head casing of the two windows and centered between the windows. The sign will have a minimum thickness of 1 1/2". The sign is to be made from a substrate that has the honest appearance of wood and will have a hand painted finish with brush marks.
Unanimously approved.

9:31 CPC RFP Development

9:40 Move to adjourn; seconded and voted unanimously