

**Historic District Commission
Minutes Meeting
August 21, 2018 @7:30 pm
Town Hall First Floor Meeting Room**

Members Present:

Peter Benedict, George Wheatley, Elaine Chamberlain, Elena Beleno Carney, Greg Premru

Members Absent:

Maureen Giattino, Laura Moore

Others Present:

Vanessa Abraham, Groton Public Library Director, John Amaral, The Groton Inn, Anna Eliot, Park Commission, Adam and Heather Goddard, Joan and Patrick Parker-Roach, Catherine Dignam, James Sabins, Fran Stanley

Staff

Maureen Adema, Admin Asst.

Called to Order 7:32 pm

7:32 pm Groton Library Project Presentation – Vanessa Abraham

Ms. Abraham provided the Commission with the Warrant Article documentation for the new Groton Library Roof and Drainage Systems. The amount of \$66,000 will be requested at Fall Town Meeting for design, and bid services for the new library roof and drainage systems. The Library Trustees hired Building Envelope Scientists from Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects (GRLA) to do a study of the building systems and make recommendations on what needs to be done to correct ongoing repairs and costs to the library building. GRLA was paid with CPC funds and State Aid. The recommendations from the study are complete replacement of all roofs, gutters, and drainage systems along with masonry and window repairs.

The Library is requesting the \$66,000.00 for additional investigation, design and bid services for the recommended work at the Fall Town Meeting.

The site is challenging because of its three stories. The outside changes that the HDC may want to weigh in on are: asphalt change, gutters, and stairs.

Capital projects funds will cover the emergency exit/walkway on the south side of the building. A civil engineer will be hired to meet state building regs and to ensure the work will be done correctly.

The project will incorporate new lights. The current lights will not be able to be replaced exactly, because the fixtures are no longer made. The library is working with a designer regarding the lights and will need contact Town departments and boards about lighting changes. Three trees will need be removed from the library grounds. Vanessa will contact Tom Delaney, Tree Warden, about the trees.

The sign's wood post is rotted and will be replaced with a granite post.

Comments and Questions

The HDC is in support of the repairs and changes. The work clearly needs to be done.

Please keep the Commission updated and involved when the details/commitments are made to any part of the outside.

7:50 pm Town Field Basketball Court Sign – Anna Eliot

Anna Eliot explained to the Commission that there have been residents who have reported the inappropriate conduct and use of the Town basketball court, to the Park Commission. The reports have cited use late into the night, loud music and the court lights remaining on throughout the night. The Park Commission addressed the lights, by having the Town electrician adjust and lock the light timer. The Commission would like to place a sign on the fence that encloses the court stating the use rules, and policies of Town owned park properties. The sign will state hours of use, no loud music etc... Ms. Eliot referred to the sign mock-up in the Commissioners' packets. Ms. Eliot stated that the police have been called by residents about the music and late-night use of the courts. The signage will support the police in asking users to obey the rules and policies.

Ms. Eliot told the HDC that the Park Commission is hoping to have the same sign for Cutler Field basketball court. The Sign Committee will review/approve the sign after the HDC approval.

Comments and Questions

Where will the sign be hung?

About 5 feet high, attached to the fence gateway visible to all, so everyone using the court can see it.

What is the size of the sign, material and color?

It is 24x30 and it will be green background with white lettering, and made of metal. It would also have graffiti proof protection.

George Wheatley made a motion to grant certificate of approval and appropriateness for a sign at the Town Field basketball court, along with the location of sign as presented by the Groton Park Commission. Greg Premru seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

8:00 pm 68 Hollis Street

New owners of 68 Hollis Street, Adam and Heather Goddard were present to discuss their plans to remove and replace the windows in their house. They presented a spec sheet of the windows they would like to purchase and install in the house. Mr. and Mrs. Goddard stated that there will be other work done to the house, but at this point the windows are the priority because of winter approaching. They will likely replace or paint the shutters in the future. The windows will have the same look as the original windows, white trim, and black shutter. The size will not change. The cedar siding will also be addressed because the window work will affect it.

Greg Premru made a motion to grant approval to replace 12 windows, 6 south side of house and 6 west side of house and replace cedar siding in kind at 68 Hollis Street. Elaine Chamberlain seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

8:10 pm Groton Inn – Forge and Vine Restaurant - John Amaral

Mr. Amaral offered to reschedule a site visit to the Inn and Forge and Vine Restaurant due to being the Commissioners were not able to make the one scheduled last week.

Mr. Amaral provided the Commission with cut sheets and photos related to the construction of the Forge and Vine restaurant.

The Forge and Vine hopes to open soon. The menu will have something for everyone. The inside of the restaurant is being built with many natural materials. There is reclaimed wood from a Pennsylvania barn, black iron strapping, along with lots of mill work, all materials chosen with much thought and care. There is a great view of Gibbet Hill. The outside will have seating for three seasons, with a fire place and all

down facing lighting. The back of the house operations are hidden from view because of the curves in the design and layout of the property.

Comments and Questions

Has an opening date been determined?

Still working on a firm opening date.

8:25 pm Groton Inn – Request for Sidewalk Sandwich Boards - John Amaral

Mr. Amaral asked to meet with the HDC to discuss placing sidewalk sandwich boards in front of the Groton Inn. The intent of the sandwich boards is to communicate to the public that the Inn is much more than a hotel and desires to have the public at large visit and spend time on the grounds and in the Inn. The Inn and restaurant will have events such as a dinner series, live music and other special social activities for the general public's enjoyment. The signs will be put out after dawn and would be removed before dusk. The signs are nice, in the same character of the Inn building, dark wood, with an insert for the signage, they are two sided and without lighting.

Comments and Questions

Two sides seem to be a lot.

Is the intent to have four different messages, one message on each side of the signs?

No

What is the size of the sandwich boards?

Standard size, easy to carry, has the handle on top when closed for mobility.

Are these signs necessary, can a bracket be added to the permanent sign to promote event etc?

There are others putting out sandwich board signs in the district, should be addressed.

Not agreeable to the signs, the Inn appears to be too busy as it stands.

Allowing on a temporary trial basis might be a fair compromise. Check in on the success of them being used.

Where are you asking to have them placed? On the sidewalk in front, max 2 or 3 days a week. We be tasteful, just enough to encourage the public to venture on to the property.

George Wheatley made a motion to grant approval to the Groton Inn for a period of one year, to be discussed to the end of the allowed period to erect no more than two, two sided sandwich boards at the street entrance of the inn property for promotion of events at the Groton Inn and/or the Forge and Vine. Greg Premru seconded the motion. Vote 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

8:42 pm 113 Main Street – Patrick and Joan Parker-Roach

Mr. and Mrs. Parker-Roach like to adopt six chickens from a relative who is leaving Massachusetts. They asked to have a discussion with the HDC before committing to taking the chickens and purchasing equipment/chicken coop. Mr. and Mrs. Parker-Roach attempted to contact their neighbors about the possible arrival of the chickens but did not find anyone at home to speak to. A building permit application has been submitted to the Town showing the location of the desired structures for the chickens. The HDC received a copy of the application documents.

Comments and Questions

Will there be a rooster?

No

Will the chickens be free on the property?

No there will be a run with the structure.

What color will the chicken coop be?

It will be painted the same color as the house.

Please see Maureen in the next couple of days and submit an application for a HDC certificate of appropriateness, for the next scheduled HDC meeting.

Administrative Matters

- *A letter was sent to Town Manager about second floor meeting room furniture. Town Manager's response was that the chairs will be given to the Council on Aging and the table will be moved to the first floor meeting room.*
- *A letter was sent to Planning Board regarding Groton Historic District street and business lighting.*
- *Fall Town meeting dates communicated*

Member Updates

George Wheatley updated the Commission on the Fall Meeting Warrant Article to extend the Groton Demolition By-law to 18 months. He asked that the HDC write a letter of support for the By-law change addressed to the Historical Commission. The Commission supports the change in the By-law. Maureen will write a letter from the HDC in support of the change to the Groton Demolition By-law addressed to the Historical Commission. George will deliver the letter to the Historical Commission.

George Wheatley made a motion to accept the minutes of May 22, 2018. Greg Premru seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

George Wheatley made a motion to accept the minutes of June 19, 2018. Elena Beleno Carney seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

George Wheatley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Elaine Chamberlain seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Next meeting September 18, 2018