

**Town of Harwich**  
732 Main Street  
Harwich, MA 02645  
508-430-7506 Fax: 508-430-4703

**Historic District and Historical Commission**  
**732 Main Street, Harwich, MA**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 6:00 PM**  
**Small Conference Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Members in attendance; Chairperson Mary Maslowski, Lynne Zalesak, Robert Doane  
Members via phone; Julia Eldredge  
Others in Attendance; Joseph Powers, Town Administrator

Chairperson Mary Maslowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**II. PUBLIC MEETING \***

**A. New Business**

- a. Historic District/Harwich Center Beautification Project – CPC Application. Town Administrator

Mr. Powers began by explaining that he has been in serial conversations with many committees in support of a prospective community presentation request for funds not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) for the benefit of beautifying Harwich Center. He then went on to deliver a quick background as well as to explain some of the procedural items which would potentially require him to come back to the HDHC Committee at a later date. Mr. Powers stated that the impetus for this application was a vote of the Board of Selectmen earlier this fall, through him as Administrator to find and acquire funds to beautify the Historic Center. He continued by saying that in some ways it is dovetailing off of the Shared Streets Grant of about a year ago where the Town of Harwich was an applicant. The Town successfully received a Shared Streets Department of Transportation Grant for the Benefit of the businesses in Harwich Center to ameliorate some of the issues with COVID-19 and the pandemic. Mr. Powers indicated that the jersey barriers have been removed from the historic center, however that there will still be a prohibition on parking on the north side of Main Street that will remain in effect. When the Town applied for the Grant, it had to inform the State that our road widths were not sufficient to allow for parking on both sides. So the Town improved the Center by getting rid in preparation for the coming snow. Mr. Powers continued by saying that he reached out to stakeholders in the Center: HDHC committee member, Mr. Bob Doane was in attendance, as were members of the public and only three (3) stakeholders at large, all three of them from the Masonic Lodge. As a result, the meeting did not produce anything of benefit. Next, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was updated and rightfully received some pushback regarding the lanterns. Mr. Powers informed the CPC that he would like to have something come to bear on Historic Exchange Park. He indicated that based on the Assessors Map and property card, the Harwich Board of Selectmen maintain care, custody and control of that property (based on Article 82 of the 1966 Annual Town Meeting that conveys it to the then Park Commission). Based on that information, Mr. Powers stated that he reached out to the Chair of the Recreation and Youth Commission to inform him that he would be appearing before the HDHC. Mr. Powers then informed the Chair that both he and Mr. Powers will have a conversation regarding the inappropriateness of moving forward through the CPC.

He thought he might get information and direction from the Board of Selectmen later this month to that effect. That may set us up for a true beautification project in fiscal years 2024 and beyond. He continued to say that he will always endeavor to partner with the HDHC in advance to seek their advice, guidance and input. He stated that he now needs to properly go in front of the Recreation and Youth Commission and see if they intend on doing something either in partnership with Mr. Powers or their own application.

Ms. Maslowski thanked Mr. Powers and said that any beautification project in Harwich Center, particularly on that corner would be welcomed. It is a highly traveled piece that welcomes visitors to and from all day every day and would be thrilled to see whatever happens. Mr. Powers then thanked Mr. Doane not only for his participation in the Stakeholders meeting but for all his exceptional research on the lamps and lanterns which may be able to be uses should Exchange Park come to bear. Ms. Maslowski concurred with Mr. Powers and stated that she appreciated Mr. Doane's attendance at the Stakeholders as well.

Mr. Doane acknowledged that the property was under the control of the Recreation Department but because the property is located in the Historic District he stated that the Historic Commission should have input into future plan. He then offered to attend the meeting with Mr. Powers to present some thoughts. Mr. Powers stated that he would appreciate and welcomed that partnership.

Chairperson Maslowski then requested that a vote be taken at the end of the meeting to have Mr. Doane represent the HDHC at the upcoming meetings.

Ms. Zalesak stated that Mr. Powers presented all details clearly and precisely and that she had no questions.

Ms. Eldredge was then asked as well if she had any questions – She did not. Chairperson Maslowski summarized the conversation and Mr. Doane's participation.

Chairperson Maslowski asked if there were any additional comments from the board. As there were none, a motion was made by Chair Maslowski to ask Mr. Doane to collaborate with the Town Administrator on the plans for Exchange Park and to participate in all meetings on the HDHC behalf.

***Ms. Zalesak moved to accept Mr. Doane as HDHC representative to all upcoming meetings with the Recreation Department regarding Exchange Park. Second by Mrs. Eldredge Motion carried 4-0.***

## **II. Adjourn**

Hearing no other comments or updates, Ms. Maslowski called for a motion to adjourn.

**Mr. Zalesak moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Doane. Motion carried 4-0**

***Next HDHC board Meeting (subject to change) – December 15, 2021***

***\*Per the Attorney General's Office – Boards/Commission may hold an open session for topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting following :New Business\*.***