

Meeting Minutes for Historic District & Historical Commission
Wednesday, November 18, at 5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Griffin Room

Call to order at 5:35 p.m. by Gayle Carroll-Co-Chair

Members present by introduction: Gayle Carroll, Jeanne Steiner, Bob Doane, Patricia Scarnici, Mirande DeWitt, Wendy Woods-Hartwell, Barbara Dowd, Bob Bradley

Absent: Gregory Winston

Gayle Carroll presents Robert Cafarelli, Town Engineer, representing case:

HH2015-21 Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) An application has been received for replacement columns on the original bank building at Brooks Free Library at 735 Main Street, Map 41, Parcel E1 in the R-R and the Harwich Center Historic District zones pursuant to MGL c. 40C, §6 and the Code of the Town of Harwich c.131 Historic Preservation, Article I. The proposal is to replace deteriorated wood columns with poly-plastic FRP replacement columns. Applicant is Town of Harwich-Library, representative, Robert Cafarelli, Town Engineer

Mr. Cafarelli: Discussed deterioration and need for replacement of columns at the Town Library. Reported on his research of samples of materials and presented the example of the proposed column for examination. At length he explained that the proposed sample would be “far superior” to wood and gave several reasons why it would be a wise choice in terms of future cost savings to the town in regard to longevity (lifetime warranty), painting, installation, maintenance.

Discussion took place that asked questions in regard to the existing columns in terms of evaluating the present damage and the extent of renovations previously done.

Mr. Cafarelli responded that they had been reinforced in the past, perhaps 1970-1973 according to maintenance employee John Eldredge. They had been cut and sealed. He stated the columns were hollow and rotted to the point of sawdust.

Bob Doane responded it is better to repair than to replace, guidelines call for repair to be equivalent to existing material.

General consensus of the board members was that if wood is available then that is what should be used to repair existing damage. Preservation was the issue, not replacement with proposed material.

Mr. Cafarelli made the point that replacement had already taken place in the 70’s.

Bob Bradley suggested only replacing the rotted portions of the column, and that the Department of the Interior is clear on the guidelines of historic preservation and materials used. Bob Doane agreed and suggested a more concrete analysis on repair vs replacement take place.

Gayle Carroll asked if any of the members would like to make a motion to continue the case based on the desire for more concrete evidence of the current condition of the columns and the options available for repair rather than complete replacement.

Bob Doane makes the motion to continue to the next meeting to review repair vs replacement of the columns.

Seconded by Jeanne Steiner All in favor, motion carried Mr. Cafarelli exits.

Gayle Carroll reads continued case of **HH2015-15 Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)** An application for new construction of a building or structure visible from a public space has been received for property located at 109 Parallel Street , Map 41, Parcel N3-A, in the MRL Zone and the Harwich Center Historic District pursuant to the Code of the Town of Harwich §131-8. Applicant requests withdrawal without prejudice and makes motion to accept applicant's request. Seconded by Bob Bradley. All in favor, motion to accept request carries.

Short discussion on Albro house ramp application regarding materials used. Mirande DeWitt agreed to research acceptable, compatible material. Question on funds allocation regarding the interior and PCP funds possibly available.

Short discussion on the current demo delay law and the possible need to extend the timeline.

Gayle Carroll addresses the board and revisits their question on if the demo-delay law follows the property should it change hands. Board members agreed to ask for legal counsel for answers.

Lou Urbano addressed the presentation on the Schoolhouse project and offered an update on funding of PCP funds. He informed the board of the benefit and need of a grant writer. Discussion on ways to raise funds.

Jeanne Steiner made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bob Bradley. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Carlson
Executive Assistant, Building

Adopted on: March 16, 2016