

Historic District Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



April 16, 2012

The **Historic District Commission Meeting** was called to order at 8:01 PM on April 16, 2012.

Present: Janet Hopkins, Chairman, James French, Robert Boone, Joel Bruzinski,
Alice Schneckeburger, Betsy Scholze, Robin Szendy, Helen Bray, Clerk

Guest: Mason Lord

LIBRARY MODIFICATION PLANS

Janet felt a Certificate of Appropriateness was not needed at this time, just approval of the final plans by the HDC. Mason Lord was at the meeting to present new library plans with drawings of all the buildings and a site plan. He started by showing the floor plans, first the old then the new. A big chunk of the building that extended beyond the barn was eliminated.

Parking spaces were eliminated. Previously there was angle parking now it has gone to parallel parking allowing the elimination of the retaining wall along the parking area. There will be 32 parking spaces.

The lighting has changed from 13 pole lights to 6 pole lights. The same down lighting.

Bob questioned the shape of the cupola. Mason responded that the pictures presented were artists renderings. The notes on the plan read – *remove existing cupola from existing barn roof temporarily to refurbish and remount to the barn roof*. Mason stated that the library will again go before P & Z and hopefully the library will break ground in September.

Jim made a motion to accept the new alterations to the library, seconded by Bob. Discussion followed.

Janet questioned the accuracy of the drawings. Bob thought the drawings should be precise and Janet brought up the original plan that was viewed from the Old Tow Hall lawn. Also, Janet did not want to give approval until the final plans are presented and Mason explained the final plans would be construction documents. The slate roof should be repaired and Janet would like to make this very clear in the approval and should be noted on the plan, slate roof either be repaired or replaced.

Bob wanted to be sure when the cupola is refurbished/restored that it maintains the exact dimensions before refurbishing. Robin commented that the barn roof will be enlarged possibly making the original cupola look smaller. According to Bob the roof will be six inches larger all around and he wants to be sure the note on the drawing states the cupola must remain precisely the same size.

Joel added the notes on the plan should read - "precise restoration of existing cupola being mindful of both precise dimension and architectural detail."

Jim brought back the motion made earlier, a motion to accept the new alterations as presented with special regard to the cupola recommendations. Seconded by Betsy and so moved.

Bob wants to know what is being done to preserve the wood and gave some suggestions. Money for this is probably not in the contract. Bob volunteered to do the wood preservation but there could be problems with the contractors.

A facilities maintenance person was discussed and it appears on the budget but it is not clear if someone will be hired for the town buildings, not including the school or if one person will maintain the school and all other town buildings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Janet wrote a letter to John Jenner explaining a C of A was not required to rebuild the front porch on the Old Store since it was a maintenance project.

Old Town Hall – Jim submitted drawings for the railings at OTH. It was approved by the Building Inspector, Fire Marshall and was left at the selectmen's office.

If the town does not want to pay for this job Janet said that the HDC will pay for the job if necessary.

Parking Space – Janet told the First Selectman she would like to put this space back to grass and he agreed.

Bench – The bench at the firehouse will be left alone for now.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jim nominated the existing slate of officers with all in favor.

Jim brought up his concerns about all the projects done in the Historic District without consulting the HDC or applying for a C of A and felt the town should be asked if they want the commission. He feels not applying for permits is deliberate. Bob feels the parking space created without permits is a dangerous situation. If these problems are not corrected by the people responsible the enforcement officer should have it taken away.

Bob suggested getting on the agenda of a Board of Selectmen meeting as a commission and present their case. Since the BOS is tied up with the budget right now and their other issues Janet will write a letter informing the BOS if these issues are not resolved by September the HDC would like to be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A few typo errors were pointed out then Betsy made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, dated February 13, 2012 seconded by Bob and so moved.

There being no further business Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Betsy and so moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON JUNE 11, 2012

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Historic District Commission