

Hadley Historical Commission Minutes for April 26, 2016 Compiled by Jeffrey Mish

Members Present: Jeffrey Mish, Tom McGee, Linda Ziegenbein, Marjorie Pratt Townsend, Margaret Freeman, Kate Kentfield, Ginger Goldsbury

Guests: Patrick Borezo, Robert Bolduc, John Mieczkowski, Jason Johnson

Meeting came to order at 7:00 with Ginger Goldsbury making a motion to amend the March minutes, requesting that parentheticals regarding communication with MassDOT, etc., be removed from the minutes, because they refer to actions taken after the meeting. Freeman seconded.

Pride Gas Station

Robert Bolduc presented a site plan for the creation of a Pride gas station on the former Aqua Vitae lot on Route 9. Pride had attempted to acquire the site of the vacant Getty gas station, but was unsuccessful.

The plan, which has been approved by MassDOT, includes parking in front, a patio area, a convenience store, tanks, landscaping, a sidewalk, and two driveways. The property, which is equipped for a 100 year storm, will have underground water retention, meaning that no fluids will enter the town water supply. The lighting, which meets dark sky requirements, and does not spill over to neighboring properties, is LSI solar.

Bolduc was unaware of pole height requirements and will bring the topic to the Planning Board.

The convenience will be of colonial design with a dark charcoal, shingled roof. There will be a high gable, dormers, mutton bars, red brick in front, and have off-white vinyl siding on the other sides. The gas station colors are blue and green.

The street sign will be non-illuminated with a two feet high brick base (15 feet in total). The color will be white. There will also be a non-illuminated sign on the front of the building.

Freeman made a motion to approve the plan, all seconded.

Library Projects

Patrick Borezo asked the Commission for permission to place an 8x8 metal collection bin on the senior center property. The bin will be a disposal site for discarded books from regional libraries.

Borezo also mentioned that the library, in conjunction with Thomas Waskiewicz and 4-H, wanted to start a public garden near the library sign on Middle Street. A fallback location would be near the Farm Museum.

Goldsbury made a motion to approve both plans, all seconded.

North Hadley Hall

At the March meeting of the Historical Commission, Linda Ziegenbein agreed to represent the Commission on a new building committee that was being formed. Without consulting Ziegenbein, the committee decided to meet at noon on a weekday. Ziegenbein informed them that she could not attend, requesting that future meeting times be moved to the evening, as well as that she receive correspondence about what took place at the meeting. The committee assessed two plans regarding the sale and use of North Hadley Hall, forwarding their decision to the selectmen. Ziegenbein was not informed of this. Therefore, the Historical Commission has moved to send a letter to the town, rejecting both proposals on the grounds that the Commission had no representation at the meeting. Ziegenbein made the motion, McGee seconded.

John Mieczkowski presented his plan for the North Hadley Hall property to the Commission. The plan calls for the creation of a 50x150 foot brick fire department to be constructed on the ballfield next to North Hadley Hall. Mieczkowski calls the proposed structure a re-purposed building, used as a fire department in the short term and later sold. In the aforementioned letter rejecting the two North Hadley Hall plans, the Commission will request that Mieczkowski's plan be considered.

Ziegenbein will contact the Conservation Commission regarding the preservation of the ballpark/greenspace next to North Hadley Hall.

Miscellaneous

Ziegenbein and Freeman will work on a statement that the Commission can present at Town Meeting regarding opposition to tear down historic buildings.

Goldsbury received word from Valley Bike Werks that they will not be able to afford their original construction plan, and will come to a future meeting with a new plan.

Jason Johnson brought items from the Leeds walking tour to show the Commission. The Commission requested that Johnson gather data on pricing for Hadley to do the same, and decided that North Hadley will be the focus of the first project.

Goldsbury will be stepping down as Chair. Margaret Freeman made a motion to nominate Linda Ziegenbein and Kate Kentfield as co-chairs. All approved and they will begin co-chairing at the May meeting.

Goldsbury made a motion to end the meeting at 9:45, all seconded.