

Meeting Minutes Report

Date & Time: February 8, 7:00PM

Present: Michael Smith, *Co-chair Historic District Commission*
Paul Bell, *Co-chair HDC member*
Lydia Ogilby, *HDC Emerita*
Arleyn Levee, *HDC member*
Lisa Harrington, *HDC member*
Peter Guinness, *HDC member*
Joe Cornish, *HDC member*
Nancy Richards, *HDC member*
Lauren Meier, *HDC member*
Richard Pichette, *HDC member*
Gerard Natoli, *Guest*

By: Allan Vanderley, *HDC member*

Absent:

Richard Cheek,

Distribution:

All members

Office of the Town
Administrator

The purpose of the monthly meeting was to review the agenda items previously posted. Non-attending members are encouraged to please notify either Co-chair as soon as possible to allow time to prepare the agenda for discussion. The items discussed were as follows:

- | <i>Item:</i> | <i>Description:</i> | <i>Action:</i> |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | LIASON REPORTS: | |
| 1.1 | Belmont Community Preservation Act Committee: Ms' Lisa Harrington reported that Article-32 [Community Preservation Committee] has been proposed and submitted for consideration of its membership. The Historic District Commission / Historical Commission will submit Mr' Peter Guinness to represent the Commission in addition to another to be considered as a "member-at-large". | <i>H.D.C.</i>
<i>H.C.</i> |
| 1.2 | Demolition Activity: | |
| | A. Oxford St. Cottage – Signed-off by the Commission for demolition | |
| | B. 212 Lexington St. – NOT signed-off by the Commission for demolition. | |
| 2. | TREE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE BYLAW: Co-chair Michael Smith reported that he attended a meeting of the Shade Tree Committee to listen to their discussion of the proposed Tree By-Law proposed by the Energy Committee. While praising the educational components of the by-law, the committee generally felt that more education, not regulation was needed; and, there are insufficient human resources in the Town to enforce the by-law. No vote was taken by the Shade Tree Committee. | <i>H.D.C.</i>
<i>/H.C.</i> |

3. BELMONT CENTER PLANNING: In discussing the present thinking by the Committee assigned to study the Belmont Center, the Commission discussed the following;

4.1. Consultant Report: The office of B.S.C. seems to be studying general engineering solutions to parking and traffic remediation.

4.2. Commission View: In general the membership of the Commission felt communicating to the Town of Belmont Community Development Department a more holistic "design-planning language" approach may be more appropriate. Specific concerns were for the possibility that the plan may be too "piece-meal" by merely addressing diagonal parking and traffic design engineering. It was felt that an "urban-design" language of characteristics unique to Belmont's image and identity would be more appropriate. It was felt that while the urban-design plan of a "person-friendly pedestrian" feel was appropriate, it was also felt that an "unimaginative pedestrian" feel may lack interest and business stimulation.

*P.B.,
A.L., & M.S.
to
draft*

4. BHDC-RETREAT: Date and time to be determined.

H.D.C.

5. OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

5.1 Historic District Signs: Mr' Gerard Natoli submitted three proposals to repost the existing Historic District Signs on Pleasant Street. The proposals were prepared by GARRITY CARVED SIGNS Co., [Stephen & Susannah Garrity, Harding Ave., Belmont]:

- A. Refurbished.....\$ 5, 100.00
- B. Hand-carved.....\$ 7, 700.00
- C. Vinyl letters.....\$ 5, 600.00

5.2 Save Leonard Street Committee: Gerard Natoli defined some areas of improvement under consideration are:

- A. Signs – removal of redundant regulatory signs.
- B. Lighting – add crosswalk lighting.
- C. Bump Outs – add widened sidewalk areas to crosswalks.
- D. Lights – add additional sidewalk lighting for pedestrians.

5.3 Art Deco Dealership Building: Ms' Arleyn Levee suggested that it might be in the interests of the Commission to create an historical awareness of the building on Pleasant Street for the new owner rather than allowing them to merely redevelop the site.

6. NEXT MEETINGS:Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 7:00PM

7. Adjourned 8:45PM

END OF REPORT