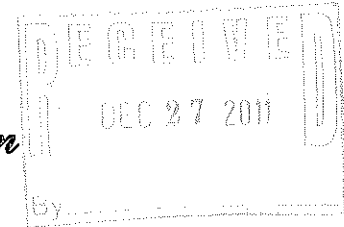


Historic District Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



December 12, 2011

The **Historic District Commission Meeting** was called to order at 8:02 on December 12, 2011.

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

Guests: Clay Cope, Andrea O'Connor

Opening the meeting Janet thanked Andrea for the help she had given the Historic District Commission with many of their projects, such as the playhouse and the senior center (OTH).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Betsy made a motion to approve the minutes dated October 17, 2011 seconded by Jim and so moved.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

Parking Space at Town Hall - An application for a C of A was presented for the creation of an additional parking space in front of Mallory Town Hall. According to the application Andrea presented additional parking spaces were a critical point of discussion during the approval of the firehouse site plans. Andrea assumed that the additional spaces created during the repaving were already authorized. Janet's recollection of this was that she had made a comment to wait until it was needed then apply for permission. (Clay Cope arrived and Janet briefed him on the parking space application.)

Andrea explained that it would be marked and have a 15 minute parking sign. Janet searched the files for firehouse maps. One showing the parking area was found but did not have this parking space on it. The file Janet found was for the firehouse expansion dated 2008. Jim feels that without evidence of any other C of A that there was no C of A for the parking areas. Therefore, the town should now apply, with appropriate drawings, for a C of A.

Janet's objection to not knowing about this until it was done is because she objects to the location or would have suggested a pull in space. Plowing could be a problem and now what is the recourse. Janet would have suggested putting the space by the stone wall across from the playhouse or put it on the very end as a pull in. Bob would have been vehemently against it.

After much discussion and suggestions on what to do with this parking space Jim made a motion to accept the application for the parking space at Mallory Town Hall, seconded by Betsy. Four were in favor and two opposed. The discussion on this application was tabled until the February meeting. Bob would like to see the space roped off or barricaded.

Nine Eleven Commemorative Bench - A bench was placed in the area between the firehouse and playhouse without anyone knowing about it until the dedication ceremony. The property is in the Historic District and does not belong to the fire department. It is town property and town officials were not notified.

Jim made a motion to accept the application for the Nine Eleven Commemorative Bench, seconded by Betsy.

The commission objected to the location of the bench pointing out there are more appropriate places to put it and possibly not even in the Historic District.

Motion was moved unanimously.

Clay suggested the commission send a letter to the fire department about this issue but the C of A should go to the selectmen's office. Janet will write a letter.

Jim made a motion to issue a C of A for the bench.

Bob would like to walk the area to look for a better location. There was a question about the bench being installed in poured concrete. It was suggested the commissioners and Clay take a look at the bench and Jim withdrew his motion.

Railing at OTH Senior Center - An application was presented for additional railing at the Old Town Hall southerly entrance since the seniors will not use the rear entrance of the building. Re-hanging the door to open in the opposite direction was investigated but the construction of the door eliminated that option.

There were no drawings, so Jim wanted to deny the application or accept it as incomplete and ask for a plan. The application has been submitted by the First Selectman but it is incomplete, lacking working drawings.

Jim made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Bob.

Discussion - Jim stated application is incomplete and requires drawings showing work to be done to correct this situation.

Motion was denied unanimously. Janet will send letter to the Commission on Aging and the Selectmen.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL

The plaques on the memorial at the OTH have become loose and are in danger of falling off or stolen, and water will get in under the loose plaques. Andrea suggested contacting the Veterans Association. Janet will call Billy Butts.

MAINTENANCE NEED IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Janet did not discuss the playhouse windows project since Robin, Bob and Janet are now making some progress.

A report on exterior maintenance needs on properties in the HD was submitted to the selectmen's office and Janet read it into the record.

The center lamppost needed the most work and is the center of Sherman, and will have town support. Bob wanted it in the HDC budget in the next fiscal year. Clay commented that the library hopes to break ground in July. Also the library board is reassessing the parking plans and probably will not change the road. Clay did agree with the commission to request this money for the lamppost in the next fiscal year's HDC budget.

The HDC recommends that the town create building and grounds department to oversee the care and maintenance of the buildings located in the Historic District as well as other town owned buildings.

Andrea commented earlier that this position is under consideration. Clay agrees and wants to be informed of everything going on around town and agrees with the HDC about writing a letter to Commission on Aging denying their application for the railing.

There being no further business Janet made a motion to adjourn seconded by Robin. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON FEBRUARY 13, 2012

Respectfully submitted,



Helen Bray, Clerk
Historic District Commission