

Approved 8/9/12

Minutes of the Cambridge Historical Commission

June 7, 2012, 6:00 P.M. Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave.

Members present: William B. King, Chair; Bruce Irving, *Vice Chair*; Robert Crocker, Chandra Harrington, *Members*; Shary Page Berg, Susannah Tobin, Joseph Ferrara, *Alternates*

Members absent: M. Willis Bibbins, Jo M. Solet, *Members*

Staff present: Charles Sullivan, Sarah Burks

Public present: See attached list.

Chair King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and made introductions. He designated alternates Shary Berg and Susannah Tobin to vote on all matters. He proposed a non-agenda item to wish Jim Shea well in his retirement from the National Park Service and the Longfellow House National Historic Site. Ms. Harrington so moved. Bruce Irving seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. King explained the consent agenda policy. He reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any cases which members of the staff, Commission, or the public thought did not require a full hearing. He pulled case 2888 for discussion. Mr. Crocker moved to approve the following cases according the consent agenda procedures and subject to review of construction details by the Executive Director.

Case 2882: 26 Craigie St., by Audrey Notkin. Repave walkways with brick.

Case 2890: 19A Berkeley St., by Wendy Weiss. Demolish pantry and construct addition.

Case 2894: Lawrence Hall, 99 Brattle St., by Lesley University. Replace two aluminum windows.

Case 2896: 195 Brattle St., by Joseph & Jan Ferrara. Construct brick and bluestone pylons at front steps; install handrails.

Ms. Tobin seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties

Case 2888: 1430 Massachusetts Ave., by University Common Real Estate Co. LLP o/b/o Sprint Spectrum, LP. Alter existing wireless antenna installation.

Mr. Sullivan showed slides and summarized the application.

Mr. King commended the applicants on the clarity and thoroughness of the application materials. Ms. Berg asked why the new antennas were shown on the renderings in a lighter color than the existing.

Mr. Ferrara arrived, and Mr. King designated him to vote.

No members of the public asked questions or offered comment.

Ms. Berg moved to approve the application on the condition that the color of the new antennas match the adjacent background. Mr. Irving seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Preservation Grants

PG 12-8: 237 Allston St., by Just-A-Start. Replacement windows.

Mr. Sullivan showed slides and reported that the current owner did a major restoration through Just-A-Start a number of years ago. The owner's present concern was energy conservation. The application was for \$13,885 to replace the single glazed modern windows with Marvin insulated windows. The proposal was for full window replacement, not inserts.

Ms. Berg suggested that an energy audit be performed first.

Mr. Crocker noted that had replaced the sash weights in his own house with Pullman Tape (spring balances) and insulated the weight pockets. This had worked well and provided extra insulation around the windows without disrupting the window or window frames.

Mr. Irving noted that to replace single glazed wood windows with insulated windows went against the Commission's window guidelines. Mr. Sullivan agreed, and added that full window replacement would cause disruption to the window frames, clapboards, etc. Mr. King agreed with Mr. Irving that it was not a good idea to violate the Commission's own window guidelines by paying for this type of window replacement.

Mr. Irving moved to decline the grant application, based on the concerns expressed by the Commission and staff about the disruption to the building, doubts about the useful life of the proposed windows, and due to the presence of a good alternative to replacement. Mr. Crocker seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Minutes

Mr. King pointed out typos and offered corrections on pages 6, 7, and 8 of the April 5, 2012 minutes. No corrections were offered for the April 13 minutes.

Ms. Harrington moved to approve the April 5 minutes as corrected and the April 13 minutes as submitted. Ms. Tobin seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Director's Report

Mr. Sullivan reported on the progress of the St. James's and North Prospect cases. He reported on the Kendall Square planning process and the role of the East Cambridge Planning Team.

Mr. Irving asked about the Praying Knight sculpture which had recently surfaced after many years. Ms. Burks described the discovery of the piece and its recovery by the Cambridge Police.

Community Preservation Act

Mr. Sullivan reviewed prospective city historic preservation projects.

<u>Proposing Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
CFD	Fire HQ door replacement	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
CHC	Old Burying Ground	Ongoing	\$40,000	\$40,000
CHC	Preservation Grants	Ongoing	\$500,000	\$500,000
CHC	Historic Marker Prototype Design	Ongoing	\$40,000	\$40,000
CHC	City Hall woodwork restoration	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
City Clerk	Vault Phase 2	\$441,264	\$441,264	\$70,000
CPL	O'Connell Branch windows, trim	\$300,000	\$300,000 ¹	balance
CWD	Fresh Pond gatehouse	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
DPW	City Hall windowsills	\$390,300	\$390,300	\$195,000
DPW	Cpl. Burns Shelter design & testing	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
DPW	Cambridge Cemetery	Ongoing	\$30,000	\$30,000
DPW	Document scanning	Ongoing	\$15,000	\$15,000
DPW	Cambridge Common	\$4,800,000	\$1,172,000 ²	-
	Totals		\$3,040,564	[\$962,000]
	Available balance			[\$3,000]

¹ \$50,000 in unexpended CPA historic preservation funds already committed to this project.

² \$857,000 in unexpended CPA historic preservation funds already committed to this project.

Ms. Harrington moved to support the Director's recommendations. Mr. Ferrara seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Mr. Crocker moved to adjourn. Ms. Berg seconded, and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Burks
Preservation Planner

**Members of the Public
Who Signed Attendance Sheet 6/7/12**

Meichi Peng	460 Harrison Ave, Boston 02118
Kevin Murphy	Lesley University, 29 Everett St
Audrey Notkin	26 Craigie St
David Cayne	26 Craigie St

Town is Cambridge unless otherwise indicated.