

Minutes for the Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission April 7, 2014 Meeting
Approved at the May 12, 2014 Meeting

Minutes of the Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission

April 7, 2014 - 6:00 PM at Carriage House at the Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street, Cambridge

Members present: James Van Sickle, *Chair*; William King, Deborah Masterson, Judith Dortz, *members*; Marie-Pierre Dillenseger, Charles Smith, Peter Schur, *alternate*

Members absent: *none*

Staff present: Susan Maycock, Samantha Paull

Members of the Public: see attached list

Mr. Van Sickle called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and gave an overview of the agenda: election of officers and approval of the March meeting minutes.

Mr. King made a motion to reelect James Van Sickle as Chair; Mr. Van Sickle accepted the nomination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Van Sickle gave an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Vice Chair position. He nominated Ms. Judith Dortz for Vice Chair. Ms. Deb Masterson seconded the nomination. Mr. King nominated Mr. Charles Smith, citing his experience in real estate. Mr. Van Sickle seconded the nomination.

Mr. Van Sickle called for a vote by secret ballot, and the results were five for Ms. Dortz and two for Mr. Smith.

Mr. Van Sickle asked if there were any comments or corrections of the March 10, 2014 meeting minutes. Mr. Van Sickle and Ms. Dortz offered corrections to the minutes. Ms. Masterson made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, which was seconded by Dr. Schur. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. King informed the Commissioners of the upcoming Preservation Awards on May 22 at Biogen.

Mr. Van Sickle asked if the Commissioners would like in the future to have an open meeting, round table discussion of ongoing projects or other items. Mr. King mentioned that "New Business" could be added to the agenda to discuss these items as they arise, and all agreed.

Ms. Dortz voiced a general concern about multiple additions that can mar the historic character of houses that started as workers cottages. Ms. Dillenseger mentioned the loss of symmetry in these simple houses. Mr. Smith pointed out that when houses are sold, new homeowners often want to expand or make change and this can affect the character of the buildings. Mr. Van Sickle read over the Objectives of the Commission, noting that the wide variety of buildings, styles and quality is what defines the overall character of the area. Mr. Van Sickle noted that over time, the neighborhood has changed and the needs of the residents have changed. Ms. Dillenseger agreed on the importance of weighing the two.

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Mr. Smith asked about some construction activity at 8 Camden Place. Ms. Maycock stated that extensive repair has been needed because of termite damage and that the contractor and owner had worked with Staff on the extent of what could be repaired versus what required replacement. The work is ongoing, but has not needed a hearing so far.

Dr. Schur asked about possible expansion of the district, and Mr. King explained the process.

Mr. King left the meeting at 6:52pm.

Dr. Schur's motion to adjourn at 6:53pm was seconded by Ms. Masterson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Members of the Public
(who signed the Attendance list)

NONE PRESENT