

Draft Minutes - Canterbury Historic District Commission
January 18, 2023, 2023, 7 pm
Meeting House

Present:

Kevin Bragg (Chair): Jeff Leidinger: Anne Emerson: Lois Scribner
(secretary/alternate): Kent Ruesswick: Harry Kinter: Ginger Laplante

Agenda

1. Call to order

Kevin Bragg called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm

2. Minutes October 19, 2022

Kent Ruesswick moved the previous Minutes, seconded by Jeff Leidinger.
All members voted to approve those Minutes.

3. Ongoing ordinance work – Action Plan for next year

Jeff and Kevin had attended a Select Board meeting in late November and had given the selectmen the finished document. Their priority since then has been on the Budget issues.

The remaining work will be 1) removing the description of the Center Historic District in the ordinance to replace that with the digital and hard copy maps now available from the CNHRPC that include lot lines, and 2) adding a waiver provision if members decide to do that. Kevin noted he had the original materials from Mark Hopkins. The HDC was established in 1990.

It was agreed there was no immediate urgency to hold a public hearing on the draft regulations until after Town Meeting. Getting around town is easier by late April, well after mud season. That said, notices can go up, the document can be made available, for a period of weeks, prior to having the actual public hearing for the regulations in late April.

It would make sense to have the document and notification about the hearing in as many outlets as possible. This would include the town email, newsletter, town website, Canterbury Facebook page, as well as hard copies in the town office and library. Ultimately it is not clear how many people would come to such a meeting given the limited number of folks living within the two historic districts.

The commission can aim for Wednesday, April 19 and use the Meeting House for the hearing. It would also be an opportunity to air the idea of changing the ordinance description of the Center Historic District and the addition of a waiver provision.

4. Town Hall steps and lights

The secretary had included this agenda item in error. Nevertheless, members thought the lights on the Town Hall looked great. Kent has set a timer on the bulbs and if the power goes out, he has to reset them but they are on late afternoon into the night. The steps look good, and the railing is still being worked on.

5. Other Business

(i) Issues pertaining to Canterbury Shaker Village and town authorities.

Members discussed several issues that suggest that Canterbury Shaker Village should have come before either the Historic District Commission and/or the Planning Board to seek approval for developments and changes to the museum that have been undertaken during the years since Scott Swank left as director. Installing generators recently was one example. Having buildings used as residences for artists and/or being rented out was another. Harry is a member of the CSV Board of Corporators. Kevin is a member of the Building Committee for the Board of Trustees.

Members discussed the boundaries between the HDC purview and that of the Planning Board if there was a change of use in a building as well as a change in the visual appearance.

It was suggested that the HDC, together with the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen, could invite the Chairman of the Canterbury

Shaker Village Board of Directors as well as the Executive Director to come to a meeting to discuss these issues moving forward. This would happen after Town Meeting when the newest selectman would be elected. It might be helpful to include the Building Inspector in the discussions too. There could be issues of public safety that would require Fire Department involvement.

(ii) Committee report for Town Meeting

Kevin is working on the report to summarize the work of the Commission these past 2 years.

6. Adjournment

Harry made motion to adjourn, and Kent seconded. All in favor. It was almost 8 pm.

Action Items

- **Jeff to resend draft regulations to Lois to post in various places**
- **Kevin to submit Committee report for Town Meeting**
- **Kevin/Lois to submit draft blurb about the public hearing in April and how residents can access copies of the draft document Jeff prepared**
- **Lois to send this out to town newsletter, town email, put on town website, put hard copies in town office and library**
- **Anne to include the draft blurb on the Canterbury Facebook page**
- **HDC Agenda for March to include working on liaison with BOS and PB to plan how and when to approach Canterbury Shaker Village Board Chairman and Executive Director**

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Scribner, secretary to HDC.

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