



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Historical Commission Minutes 05-01-2001

Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order: Robert Botterio, presiding, with commissioners Pam Meister, Michael Ruderman, JoAnn Robinson; associate Eric Stange, and secretary Lyz Carey.

Review of minutes of the previous meeting-these minutes are corrected as follows: to be known as the minutes of 3 April (postponed from March 6), the reference to the on-line posting of articles submitted to the Town Meeting is http://arlingtonma.virtualtownhall.net/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_TownMeet/%23945483, and Ms. Robinson is working on plans to memorialize the late Patricia Fitzmaurice with a bench in the civic block gardens.

Communications from Mr. Botterio:

Beth Cohen's letter of resignation, and the letter of recommendation for Mr. Stange's appointment as the seventh commissioner of this body, have both been submitted to the Selectmen .

A request for repair of the *back* porch at 19 Maple Street does not require our involvement.

A request by the Pleasant Street Congregational Church for permission to mount a wireless communication antenna was directed to Historic Districts Commission.

A recent publication by the Massachusetts Historical Commission listing historical venues for events and functions includes Arlington's Whittemore Robbins House, the Smith Museum (attached to the Jason Russell House, at 7 Jason Street), and the Governor Brackett House (87 Pleasant Street).

We have also received a notification from MHC of a antenna tower to be built at 1315-1321 Massachusetts Avenue, deemed by their review "unlikely to affect significant architectural or historical resources."

Mr. Nathan Simon, of Simon Construction and Brookline Window (Sharon, MA) inquired about a prospective project to replace second- and third-story vinyl windows with wooden ones at 200-260 Massachusetts Avenue. This same company has already rebuilt the windows on the first floor of this commercial block, being the Capitol Theater marquee and the abutting storefronts. Mr. Botterio invited them to bring their plans in for discussion at a later date.

Mr. Stange expressed his thanks for the use of the Whittemore Robbins House as a shooting location for scenes in his forthcoming PBS documentary "The Murder of Dr. Parkman." We will carry the broadcast date (February 2002) on the Agenda under Reports as an opportune moment for a celebratory event to be planned later.

Review of Projects

125 Brattle Lane/Farmer's Lane (Colonial Ridge LLC) 11/99: Robinson-still swapping phone messages regarding the condition of the remaining farmhouse; foundations going in.

143 Woodside (Bouvier)7/00: Guthrie-work completed; to be removed from agenda.

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Guthrie-no news, aside from the Fire Department's designation of the structure as too unsafe to enter (the "red X" program) except for saving lives.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington)11/00: Robinson, Guthrie-Court Street Architects is the town's choice for these renovations.

45 Fairview Avenue (Trvalik) 12/00: Botterio-no information.

19 Winter Street (McGlashing) 2/01: Ruderman-finished according to specifications (including the windows), except for the missing cornerboards on the breadth of the extension. Mr. Ruderman will inquire.

Demolitions Pending

7 Brattle Court (David and Danny Veo, owners): August 1, 2001

5 Brattle Court (Mike Daniel, owner): November 8, 2001
962 Massachusetts Avenue (Rita Yegian, owner): November 8, 2001
No new information.

Reports

Whittemore-Robbins House: Carey-repairs made to back porch; front needs it also.
Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-job description forwarded to Umass for summer horticultural intern; price quote received for brick walkway repairs (to be partly by the house receipts, partly by the house trustees); time capsule has been "planted", and Ms. Robinson will continue to try to have it marked with a flat, not vertical, marker.
Updates and Expansion to Inventory: Meister, Guthrie, Stange-need to rebuild list of potential volunteers.
Inventory of public buildings: Stange and Robinson-same as above.
Education/Outreach: Stange, Botterio-tours of the house and gardens for high school seniors.
Massachusetts Avenue (Osco): Robinson-further deterioration to building.
Affordable Housing Task Force: Stange- Town Meeting article postponed to May 7.
Zoning By-Law Review Committee: Meister-three articles (Nos. 13, 14, and 15) passed by Town Meeting. Article 17, rezoning 821 Massachusetts Avenue to be amenable to an expanded auto dealership (following the demolition of an inventoried structure) passed in a 111-39 vote, in spite of the "no action" recommendation of Redevelopment, Zoning, and this body.
Historic Districts Commission: no report.
Old Burying Ground survey and assessment: Robinson-no report.
Preservation Fund-Guthrie-no report.
Grants (Surveys and Planning): Guthrie, Stange-the MHC timeline for grants to support inventory projects is a fall application for spring funding. Ms. Robinson has applied for further funds from the Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program to continue work on the civic block.

New Business

8:00 pm: Formal Hearing, 9 Brantwood Road (Timothy Stainton, owner)

The commission voted unanimously, with Mr. Botterio to monitor, to approve the extensive modifications to this home presented, on behalf of the homeowner, by Matt Miller and Stephania Mai of Miller/Boehm Architects, in accordance with the plans presented at this evening's hearing. In part, these modifications include rebuilding the small side porch removing the front porch and restoring the original elevation (captured in a period photograph of the house used as an advertisement for other home in the Kensington Acres subdivision) adding a gabled rear addition, with consistent details to be carried from the front recycling foundation stones from the site of the rear addition with which to face the new foundation.

In other new business, the commission will purchase a tarp or un-walled tent for Town Day.

Confirm meeting for June 5, 2001; here, at 7:30 pm, and adjourn.

For the Arlington Historical Commission
A. Michael Ruderman, Commissioner