



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
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Grafton Historic District Commission

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Finance Committee Meeting Room
May 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Member Attendees: John Morgan, Bill Nicholson, Bob Perla, Paul Scarlett and John Stephens

Non-Member Attendees: Doug Willardson and Ann Morgan

- **Call to Order**
 - Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:02.
- **Bills**
 - None discussed.
- **Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2015 and November 20, 2014**
 - John Stephens motioned to accept both sets of minutes as submitted with the exception of a single amendment to the January 15th document to add Bill Nicholson as an attendee. Bill Nicholson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Old Business**
 - Applications report
 - Town House – Mr. Morgan brought to the commission's attention the need to formally reach a decision on application of the Grafton Town House Oversight Committee for the ongoing accessibility and assembly updates being undergone at the Town House. Mr. Stephens motioned to approve the application as submitted, Mr. Nicholson seconded, there was no further discussion and the vote passed unanimously with the sole exception of Mr. Scarlett who recused himself.
 - Congregational Church Clothing Shed
 - Nothing new to report although it is understood Mr. Yeomans is working on the plantings for the shed.
 - Traffic Island and Roadway Reconfiguration Project
 - Mr. Willardson advised the commission that he had done some additional research on materials for use in the crosswalk between the Town House and the Country Store with an eye toward being more visible and help slow traffic while also being attractive. Jeff Walsh from Graves Engineering has recommended thermoplastic paint be used for this purpose. He has advised that this is significantly less expensive solution than brick or stamped concrete. He did not

recommend a raised (“table”) configuration be used given the location on a hill and the fact that they tend to be loud. With the cost savings this solution would enable perhaps most if not all the walkways to be done within the Historic District. He also advised he has given Mr. Walsh the go ahead to design the plans for the traffic islands, walkways and green space in front of the Grafton Inn. He is also going to be moving forward with the heavy duty resin planters he showed us last month and will be placing those both at the corner of Worcester Street and Millbury Street at the front corner of the Country Store, but also in along Upton Street adjacent to Grafton Inn’s parking lot in order to break up the visual impact of the expanse of pavement in this area. Mr. Morgan suggested the balance of the commission’s remaining \$450 in budgeted funds from FY15 be allocated to the purchase of the planters. All agreed this was an appropriate use for these funds.

- Update on Common Landscape Plan – Mr. Morgan presented photos of various bench and trash barrel designs for the Commission’s consideration. These are intended for use within the Common as part of the overall landscape plan. There was agreement on the preferred design for each and the color (black). Mr. Morgan advised he would communicate these selections to Mr. Bernat.
- Update on Property Owners Handbook and HDC Design Guidelines – Mr. Morgan suggested this topic be the focus of next month’s meeting as there has been a rash of incidents lately where approval was not sought out from the Commission for work that clearly falls under our purview.
- **New Business**
 - In light of recent requests for consideration of outbuildings and a recent comment from the library that they will be looking to install a compost bin and rain barrel, Mr. Perla has been reviewing the Outbuilding sections of our Design Guidelines and has some recommendations for refinement. Mr. Morgan suggested that as this aligns with the overall updating of the Design Guidelines, the discussion around this should take place next week when we will dedicate the meeting to this topic.
 - Mr. Morgan brought up the subject of property assignments given the addition of Mr. Perla to the commission. Assignments were divvied up as follows:
 - Mr. Morgan – McManus building and Country Store
 - Mr. Schlapak – Baptist Church and two Pedula houses next door.
 - Mr. Perla – Congregational Church, Fisher Mansion and GURR
 - Mr. Nicholson – Sudemeyer house, Grafton Inn, Magill building
 - Mr. Stephens – Vista Financial, Judy Smith House, Pediatrician
 - Mr. Scarlett – Perrault property, Library, Town House, Unitarian Church
- **Executive Session**
 - None held.

- **Adjournment**

- Mr. Scarlett motioned to adjourn at 8.55, Mr. Stephens seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paul A. Scarlett, clerk.

