

1 Historic District Commission Meeting.

2 May 15, 2024, 7 pm, Meeting House, FINAL Minutes

3 Members Present

4 Kevin Bragg, (Chair), Kent Ruesswick, (BOS rep), Jeff Leidinger, Anne Emerson, Lois
5 Scribner, secretary/alternate

6 Members Absent

7 Harry Kinter

8 Others Present

9 Kal McKay, Administrative Assistant: David Katz, Chair of the Trustees, Shaker Village Inc.

10 Agenda

11 1. Call to Order

12 Kevin Bragg called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Lois Scribner was elevated to vote in lieu
13 of Harry Kinter that evening.

14 2. Previous Minutes of April 24

15 Jeff was absent that evening so would not vote to approve the previous minutes. Kent
16 moved the Minutes of April 24. Anne seconded. All other members present voted in favor.

17 3. Kal McKay, presentation re new email addresses for town committees

18 Kal gave out packets with Right To Know information. They had been to a NHMA workshop,
19 and learned it is bad to use personal email addresses for municipal work. Now they know it
20 is a problem they should address it. Because of liability and privacy – people can submit a
21 RTK request and have access to their private email references used for the HDC business.
22 If you miss something you can be taken to court, there are legal fees, it is also a privacy
23 issue, a judge or ombudsman can go through your personal email to look for things. So, it is
24 cleaner if everyone is using different emails not their personal – a .gov address costs \$4 per
25 month per person – so they narrowed it down for land use boards, they all have .gov email
26 addresses. Kal gave out information about where to go on the internet and email
27 passwords.

28 They are trying to get this done by June 1. There is a lot of confusion. The idea is to reduce
29 the time for confusion. Cell phone records are applicable for RTK. So, try to find all the HDC
30 emails and forward to your new address. People can use the same email address for the
31 different boards they might be on – it is easier just to have one. This whole process is a pain

32 and a technical nightmare for many people. Kal can help them get it set up on their
33 computer and phone, help them make folders, recognizing this is a lot for some people. Kal
34 is available at Sam Lake House and you can email or call to make a time.

35 Jeff asked what was the cut off for the old emails, how long is the look back? Kal advised
36 going back as far as you can, work back from the newest stuff. There are different
37 regulations for different types of material. Even scheduling is to be kept. It is all in the spirit
38 for open government, so do your best, make the best effort.

39 Members had further questions and Kal addressed those individually.

40 In recent weeks these HDC emails came from the HDC.gov email but for some years (2015-
41 24) these came from scribnerlois@gmail.com

42 Kevin asked if this would change with the new land use professional. Emails will need to go
43 to the land use professional as well as the commission secretary.

44 Was a Group tutorial feasible. Kal was open to that idea. Anne needs Kal to come to her
45 house to help with her desktop. **Lois to contact members re group tutorial.**

46 4. Canterbury Shaker Village – generators request

47 Kevin introduced this discussion. He had spoken on behalf of himself at the earlier meeting
48 – not the Board as a whole. David Katz is now Chairman of the Board at Shaker Village and
49 had brought photos of the generators to share with them. Kevin’s concern was that there
50 had never been an application for generators, and now there was a 5th at the pump house
51 near Turning Mill Pond.

52 Kent asked if the generators came on and off themselves. David said yes, they have kept
53 lights on during power outages. Kevin said the generator behind the Visitors Center is not a
54 problem for the DHR though that had not come before the Board. David noted it was before
55 his time. Kevin said it is where it needs to be. The second one is behind the Dewey school,
56 the third is the Carriage House, the 4th down by Spin shop and the 5th one down by Turning
57 Mill pond. Historically, all the utilities were supposed to be screened off. The HDC
58 specifically wanted all those buildings to be behind a fence but they had used vinyl so it
59 has not survived. At an earlier time, the HDC required the Dewey school to do this.

60 The generator behind the Visitor Shop was of concern to DHR and to Kevin so some kind of
61 screening was discussed with a consensus when Kevin had toured the site with Laura
62 Black (Preservation Compliance Specialist) of the DHR. Kevin recalled that Laura Black did
63 not see the generator behind the laundry, facing the garden, as an issue, but to Kevin it was
64 one of the most bucolic areas at the Village with gardens and buildings, so fencing would
65 not be a good idea, but a tall vegetative screen of perennials could work. It was between

66 May to October that most visitors took photographs. He had not walked down the hill with
67 Laura Black as the pump house generator was not planned at that point.

68 Anne Emerson said she would like to see vegetative screening for the Carriage House and
69 behind the Laundry and down by the pump house. That was a place to walk and enjoy the
70 pond. Jeffery Leidinger agreed with reference to the Carriage House and Laundry. He was
71 less concerned about the pump house but could see it was a good idea because people
72 walk there. So add something about some shrubbery and vegetation, to mask the
73 generators, nothing expensive or hard to maintain.

74 Kent asked about the propane tanks down by the pump house. Would they be covered as a
75 whole or just the offending objects? Kevin noted that is a much-photographed view, looking
76 down the hill. If there were a couple trees put in the way of the view, so the average person
77 wouldn't see the red pipes and white tanks, it could help. Native deciduous trees were
78 cheaper than conifers and would do enough to just soften the view. David said he had
79 thought of painting the tanks a more appropriate color as well as shielding them with
80 something. The red pipes are code though. Lois had seen them on winter walks, thought
81 the idea of painting the white tanks was good. Kent also, with a couple trees to block.

82 Kevin said the Carriage shop generator is closer to the road than originally envisaged. There
83 is not enough room to do a large shrubbery but the right plant could help, and Kevin could
84 help with that. David said he would prefer natural screening if possible. They have Johnny
85 Carr come to trim. Kevin suggested a Jerusalem artichoke would grow fast to help screen
86 and a docent could talk about them as a feature because they used to be grown by the
87 Shakers.

88 Anne asked if that would work at the pump house. Kevin thought was a much larger area so
89 maybe 2 maples would work, a native would survive better. Jeff wondered about the cost.
90 Kevin said the last memorial was a sugar maple from Millikins that cost \$550 and was
91 partially grown. Tupelo was another thing and the fall foliage down there is photographed
92 world wide, so something native rather than a ginko would be better. David said he relies on
93 his wife for 'dirt' and plant issues. Kevin reiterated the goal was to protect the views. Kent
94 noted that in Kentucky at Pleasant Hill they paint everything not Shaker in black.

95 Members discussed the 5 different sites again to reach a consensus about action items. It
96 was agreed that the details of plants and vegetation would be left out of the Certificate of
97 Approval, but it would request screening, and Kevin will volunteer to help with choices.
98 David was satisfied with the HDC's consensus. Everyone wanted to help the Village, Jeff
99 said.

100 **Kevin made a motion to complete a Certificate of Approval for Canterbury Shaker**
101 **Village requiring:**

- 102 **1. Hubbard generator – leave it as fine as is**
- 103 **2. Dewey generator – leave it as fine as is**
- 104 **3. Carriage House generator – add screening to 2 sides, Shaker and southern**
105 **exposure, of an appropriate vegetative material**
- 106 **4. Spin Shop generator – add vegetative screening to 3 sides of appropriate**
107 **vegetative material**
- 108 **5. Pump House generator - add view specific buffering of pump house from above**
109 **– including painting if permitted by the owners of the tanks (Huckleberrys)**

110 **Kent seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor.**

111 The secretary would work with the Chair to prepare the Certificate of Approval to send
112 to Shaker Village.

113 6. Maple Tree removal Center Cemetery

114 Kent said the maple tree close to the water trough needed to come down. Unitil was
115 worried about the power lines. He believed they would grind the stump. Kevin had
116 looked at the tree and concluded it was not that bad of a shape but it was a candidate
117 for removal.

118 The request was coming from Unitil, not the town as such. Jeff asked Kent, on behalf of
119 the Cemetery Trustees, did he believe it was a danger to the cemetery if it blew down.
120 Kent said they were in favor of it coming down. Kevin said the predominant winds from
121 the NW blew right at that tree but the winds from the south could cause the whole
122 power line to come down. Major limbs could damage cemetery stones.

123 Kent said there had been other maples planted and they were thriving. And the town
124 was not having to pay for the removal, Unitil was. They could ask Unitil if they would pay
125 for a new tree to be planted close to the stump. Kevin said they HDC could give
126 approval for tree removal asking for tree replacement too, but to ask the select board if
127 Unitil would not pay

128 **Jeffrey Leidinger proposed the motion that the Center Cemetery maple tree be**
129 **removed with the proviso in the first instance the town will ask Unitil to remove,**
130 **stump grind and replace the tree; and in the absence of their agreeing to replace**
131 **the tree, the HDC asked the selectmen to find funds to plant a tree.**

132 **Kent seconded. All voted in favor. Kent to talk to Ken Folsom about the decision.**

133 7. Ginger Laplante retiring from the HDC

134 Ginger had let Kevin know in late April that she would retire from the HDC. It was agreed
135 that the HDC should thank Ginger publicly in the town/church newsletter for her years of
136 service and contributions. **Lois to draft and send in. Kent would take the card members**
137 **wrote in that evening to Ginger's home.**

138 Kevin proposed that Harry Kinter should take Ginger's place and all members unanimously
139 agreed. The Selectmen meet the next week so it could be on their agenda. **Secretary to let**
140 **Kal and Ken Folsom know that Harry Kinter is to be elevated to full board membership.**
141 **Kent can ask Sam to make up the slip once the selectmen give their approval too.**

142 8. Other Business

- 143 • There was discussion about the new parking sign at the library. The consensus was
144 that they are terrible. Kent reported that Rachel Baker had come to the selectmen to
145 ask for them and got permission. The HDC had not been consulted. Kevin said it
146 flies in the face of the Center being friendly and warm. Obviously handicap signs
147 had to be there but these new ones were ugly. It was not clear if they were just
148 needed for the days when the farmer's market is in the library parking lot.
- 149 • Kevin gave some background to the issue of the historic preservation of dams, on
150 Lyford Pond, at Sherwood Forest. There had been some leakage after rains. The
151 state is involved. Shaker Village claim not to be owners but won't let anyone else do
152 anything. Sherwood Forest and as far as the Speedway are under threat if the dam
153 flooded. Kevin was glad the town was trying to get all the parties together. Kent
154 thought the next discussion was June 6. The Selectmen were supposed to visit it on
155 Saturday morning.
- 156 • Inviting Laura Black – Kevin has calls in at the DHR offices.

157
158 9. Adjournment

159 Kevin moved to Adjourn. Kent seconded. It was 8.25 pm.

160 Respectfully submitted,

161 Lois Scribner, secretary.