

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 10, 2013**

Town of Bedford
Bedford Town Hall
Lower Level Conference Room

PRESENT: William Moonan, Chair; Karen Kalil-Brown, Clerk; Carol Carlson; Alan Long; Lorrie Dunham

ABSENT: Karen Kalil-Brown, Clerk

Mr. Moonan introduced himself and read the emergency evacuation notice.

PRESENTATION: Ms. Kalil-Brown read the notice of the hearing.

PETITION #001-14 – First Parish Church, 75 Great Road, for bicycle racks.

Joel Parks and Art Smith came to the table to speak on behalf of the Church. The board reviewed a sketch of the proposed four (4)-bike racks and brick pathway (to match existing), shown on Exhibit A, which is to the right of the Elm Street church entrance. Mr. Parks indicated that the new path would be no wider than the existing one, and there would be 3 to 4 feet between each bike rack, which would make the new pathway not more than 16 feet long. The bike racks would be cemented in, with tubes at the base of each.

After discussion by the board and church representatives, it was decided that it would be best to pave under and behind the racks also, which would eliminate wet grass and mud problems. Mr. Smith drew the new design of bricks on Exhibit A.

The group also discussed which way the bikes would sit, and it was agreed they would be parked perpendicular to Elm Street.

MOTION:

Ms. Kalil-Brown moved to approve the application from the First Parish Church for four (4) bike racks, which will be perpendicular to Elm Street. Also approved are brick pavers which shall match the existing walkway, leading to and under that racks as shown on Exhibit A. The racks shall be Double Loop Bike Racks by Barco Products, as shown on Exhibit B.

Ms. Carlson seconded the Motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Kalil-Brown, Carlson, Long, and Dunham

Voting against: None

Abstained: None

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

PRESENTATION: Ms. Kalil-Brown read the notice of the hearing.

PETITION #002-14 – Bedford Rug, 88 Great Road, for awning sign.

Mr. Mohammed Nazar applicant for Bedford Rug, provided a photo of the awning over the shop with “BEDFORD RUG” applied in bold white capital letters on the drop of the awning. The awning drop is six (6) inches high, the letterings are almost six (6) inches high, and the length of all the lettering will be 49 inches wide, as shown on Exhibit A.

Mr. Moonan wondered if the board had set a standard for the Blake Block signs meaning they would all be on the top of the slanted awnings. The board members discussed with Mr Nazar the possibility that this proposed sign may be too small to read from the street. Mr. Nazar indicated he wanted the sign as shown on the sketch.

Bruce Blake, owner of the building, stated he would like to see signs in different places, just as the building itself had its differences. He thought that’s an appropriate and eclectic look, in keeping with the idea of the block.

MOTION:

Ms. Kalil-Brown moved to approve the application dated June 5, 2013 from Mohammed Nazar for the Bedford Rug sign to be printed on the awning drop as shown on Exhibit A. Lettering to be white with bold font, to fit on the six-inch drop, as shown on Exhibit A.

Ms. Dunham seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Kalil-Brown, Carlson, Long, and Dunham

Voting against: None

Abstained: None

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Blake Block Gas Meters, 68 – 84 Great Road

Ms. Kalil-Brown and Mr. Long recused themselves from this discussion.

The Commission requested this meeting with Mr. Blake after viewing the installation of the many gas meters on the far right side (East) of the building, attached to 88 Great Road. It was the Commission’s opinion that they were placed too high, and partially blocked at least one window.

Submitted was a colored photograph of how the meters might look once the piping and regulators are re-located to a lower height. Noted on the photo is that the illustration and location is approximate and there may need to be adjustments due to site conditions and code requirements.

Mr. Blake discussed his communication with the gas company, and it was agreed by all that plantings or fencing off the meters would be difficult in the small space and might draw the eye to the area. Rather, the board would like to see the metal piping painted to match the color of the siding with a non-peeling paint made for the type of piping used.

Mr. Moonan stated that he would like us all to live with this relocation and paint color for a while, and review this decision within six (6) months. Mr. Blake agreed.

MOTION:

Ms. Dunham moved a motion stated by Mr. Moonan to approve the relocation of the gas meters as shown on Exhibit A, painted a color (beige) to match the building, with the right to review the matter in six (6) months.

Ms. Carlson seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Carlson, and Dunham

Voting against: None

Abstained: None

Recused: Kalil-Brown and Carlson

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

Anna Wallace, 5 Springs Road – Removal of historic siding

Pursuant to a letter dated June 27, 2013, from HDC Chairman William Moonan to Anna Wallace of Bedford, she appeared before the board as requested. Mr. Moonan stated that during renovation of the property at 5 Springs Road, the owner, Anna Wallace, removed and destroyed all the old exterior siding and trim, replacing it with new, without HDC approval. Further, he pointed out in his letter (Exhibit A) to Ms Wallace that “Exhibit D of the Notice of Determination reads: Exterior clapboards and detailing on existing house to be restored and continued in kind onto new addition.” He thanked Ms. Wallace for attending this meeting to discuss the issue.

Ms. Wallace stated that she had said “we’d try” to preserve the old siding, and that there was no intent to do something she shouldn’t have. She explained they found too much termite damage and cracked old wood that the contractor said they could not continue to use. She told the board that she wished she had known earlier of the boards’ concern, so that there could have been a discussion between all.

Mr. Moonan stated that the HDC is interested in preserving the architectural details of the historic buildings in the district, and that this new siding was never considered by the board. Pamela Brown, the owner’s attorney, spoke up by indicating that the owner used real wood siding and trim, and not something like HardiPlank or another such product. Ms. Wallace stated that they used some windows from an 1800’s historic home in Pembroke.

Mr. Moonan said that, in light of the fact that the old siding was unable to be used because of insect damage, rot and cracking, and that it is all now destroyed, no further action is required by the owner concerning his letter dated June 27, 2013.

Ms. Wallace and Mr. Moonan briefly discussed the stone wall adjacent to the drive way at 5 Springs Road and the town's Old Burial Grounds, which has been tumbling down over the years. Mr. Moonan stated that it appears someone had worked to repair it, but that it still hasn't been done correctly. Ms. Wallace said the Department of Public Works has been working on the wall, not any of her employees. Mr. Moonan will contact the Bedford DPW.

MOTION:

Ms. Kalil-Brown moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Carlson seconded the motion.

Voting in favor: Moonan, Kalil-Brown, Carlson, Long, and Dunham

Voting against: None

Abstained: None

The motion carried unanimously, 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

William Moonan, Chairman Date

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Carlson
(Took minutes of meeting)

Scott Gould
(Edited final draft)