

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE
Minutes – October 29, 2019

Present: Co-Chairs Michael Melnick and Elaine Jones, Craig Blake, and John Porter. Also present: Facilities Director William Barletta, Anu Shah, Taryn Trexler, Patricia and Charles Guthy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. at the DPW Conference Room.

Minutes The minutes of April 22 and August 6, 2019 were approved.

Town Hall Project Present: BH+A Architect Joel Bargmann and Construction Monitoring Services (CMS) Project Manager Neil Joyce.

Mr. Blake summarized the history and more recent developments on authorizations required for the project by the Historic Districts Commission (HDC), the Historical Commission (HC), and the Commission on Disability (COD).

The drawing presented to the Historic Districts Commission illustrating one approach to making the front door accessible will be utilized as a good starting point in the discussion process. At that initial meeting it became obvious that there would be a wide variety of input to the design. Mr. Blake explained that, in an attempt to get direction, an application to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) was planned for submittal for a ruling on a variance for the front entrance access which would meet the criteria required under CMR 521. With a letter from the COD, letters of support were requested from the HC and the HDC for the initial submittal to the MHC which reports to the MAAB. A variance application was submitted by the Architect's consultant but was consequently withdrawn before the MAAB decision was issued at the request of the HC who expressed a concern that there was not sufficient consensus concerning the variance request among the interested commissions. After meeting with the HC shortly thereafter regarding the submission and format process, Mr. Blake presented his plan to PBC members to meet with all parties involved with the intent to educate all present on the preliminary design of the front entrance in order to obtain a consensus at that meeting. Proposed meeting materials were distributed for comment.

It was suggested by COD Chair Patricia Guthy that the Committees would need more time to digest the information to be presented. She advised that rather than having committee deliberation at the joint meeting with straw votes on options, it would be best to have separate discussions held by each committee for this purpose at their respective meetings followed by another combination meeting.

The PBC members agreed that a combination of two meetings held on separate weeks would be the preferable approach. The individual Committees will post their own meetings to discuss the information provided by Mr. Blake.

Loring Parsonage Project PBC Project Manager Michael Melnick reported that the Parsonage construction project has been completed except for construction and installation of the trellis to

be placed in the front of the ell adjacent to the main building by a separate contractor and some IT work within the building. Mr. Melnick is currently in the process of preparing the General Contractor evaluation required by the Commonwealth and noted that the final completion of the project will be within budget. It was noted that “No Entry” signs should be placed at the front doors of the building as they have not been made accessible.

Membership An additional application for PBC membership has been received from Jennifer Pincus who will be invited for an interview at a PBC meeting.

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be held on November 5th for the purpose of interview and any other business required.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Jones