

Charter, By-Law and Handbook Review Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2018

The Meeting was posted as required by MGL.

Attendees: Carol Gloff, Chair; Richard Sidney, Vice-Chair; Alan Grady (arrived at 7:10 pm); Harriet Merkowitz; Alan Rosenman; Catherine Schellenberg

Absent: Cathy Coughlin

Guests: Steve Evers, Chair, Natick Historical Commission (7:07 pm to 7:20 pm); Jamie Errickson, Natick Community and Economic Development Director (7:25 pm to 8:21 pm)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

There were no Citizen's Concerns.

There were no minutes presented.

By-law Article 76, Regulations for the Demolition, Alteration or Relocation of Historically Significant Buildings or Structures

Steve Evers discussed regulatory context and contact with Christopher Skelly of the Mass. Historical Commission regarding inclusion of buildings and structures on the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. More than 300 have been added since the adoption of the By-Law. Committee discussed the difference between "Historically Significant" and "Preferably Preserved" properties.

Motion by Richard Sidney, seconded by Alan Grady, to amend Article 76 by adding language to Section 2 to the effect that a Historically Significant Building or Structure must be at least 50 years old, adding a definition of Preferably Preserved Building or Structure, deleting the second sentence in Section 3, subsection b, and making other minor format corrections to the Article. Motion approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

By-Law Article 52, Building Regulations

Alan Grady reported that he had discussion with the Natick Building Commissioner about possible language to be added to Article 72 to prevent visual obstruction at the intersection of a street and a driveway by a fence or other object. Input from Jamie Erickson and committee discussion of alternative language and import of zoning regulations, definition of “driveway”, sloping streets and driveways, various driveway configurations on lots and applicability to both accepted and unaccepted streets. It was felt that any changes would not be retroactive.

Motion by Alan Grady, seconded by Harriet Merkowitz, to amend Article 72 by retitling Section 5 as “Height Requirements at Intersection, including Driveways” and substituting the language: “In any lot which abuts an intersection of two or more public ways, no fence, shrubbery or other object which is located within fifteen (15) feet of such an intersection, shall be maintained more than three (3) feet above the street grade measured at said intersection.

No fence, shrubbery or other object located within fifteen (15) feet of the intersection of a public way and a driveway shall be maintained more than three (3) feet above the street grade measured at said intersection.” Motion approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Motion to adjourn by Harriet Merkowitz, seconded by Alan Grady. Motion approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan L. Rosenman

Minutes approved by a vote of 4-0-0 on January 29, 2018.