

DRAFT Minutes of the Cambridge Historical Commission—THIS DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Cambridge Historical Commission

June 8, 2023 – Meeting conducted online via Zoom Webinar (893 0447 5034) - 6:00 P.M.

Members present (online): Susannah Tobin, *Vice Chair*; Jo Solet, *Members*;
Gavin Kleespies, Paula Paris, *Alternate Members*

Members absent: Bruce Irving, *Chair*, Joseph Ferrara, Chandra Harrington, Liz Lyster, Yuting Zhang, *Members*; Kyle Sheffield, *Alternate Member*

Staff present (online): Charles Sullivan, *Executive Director*, Sarah Burks, *Preservation Planner*

Public present (online): See attached list.

This meeting was held online with remote participation pursuant to Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by the Mass. General Court and approved by Governor Healey. The public was able to participate online via the Zoom webinar platform.

With a quorum present, Vice Chair Tobin called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M. She explained the online meeting instructions and public hearing procedures, then introduced commissioners and staff. She designated alternate members Kleespies and Paris to vote on all matters. She dispensed with the Consent Agenda procedure.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties

Case 4953 (continued): 91 Brattle St., by Lesley University. Construct phase 2 campus landscape and lighting plan.

Mr. Sullivan shared slides of the Lesley University campus, originally the Episcopal Divinity School. The hearing was a continuation from May 11. Accessibility alterations to Reed and Burnham halls had been approved on Nov. 3, 2022. He noted that the paved plaza in front of St. John’s Chapel was a later addition to the landscape design. He explained that the open nature of the campus meant that it was all considered visible from a public way. Several campus buildings had been altered for accessibility.

Matt Langan of Stimson Studio shared his screen and displayed the landscape plans for phase two improvements (phase one being the parking lot and adjacent spaces between 101 Brattle and Lawrence Hall). He noted that the desire line path from Lawrence Hall to the dining hall had been put back into the plan. He described the details of the two sloped walkways that lead up to the loggia of Reed Hall. The cheek walls/curb of the sloped walkways would be bush-hammered granite. He displayed the 1912 planting plan by the Olmsted Brothers, which had the paths in similar locations and plantings in the corners near Reed Hall. New plantings in those corner locations will make the cheek walls less visible. Two granite walls on the back side of Reed Hall would create a seat wall.

Ms. Tobin asked for questions from the Commission.

Dr. Solet stated that a site visit would have been helpful for this case. She asked about snow removal behind and around the columns of Reed Hall. Todd Andrews of Centerbrook Architects indicated that they had kept enough space around the columns to remove snow and debris. Dr. Solet expressed concern about the potential reverberation of sound from the new rooftop mechanicals on Sherrill Hall that had been approved at a hearing on May 11, 2023. She encouraged the university to improve the situation

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with acoustical remediation.

Ms. Tobin called for questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Mr. Sullivan said the applicant's team had been responsive to the commission's comments and issues raised by the staff. Ms. Tobin said the revisions showed that the team had listened to the points raised by the commission. Ms. Paris thanked the proponents for the work they had put into the design and for listening to the commission's feedback at the previous hearing.

Mr. Kleespies moved to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the plans as submitted. Ms. Paris seconded. The motion passed 4-0 in a roll call vote (Kleespies, Paris, Solet, Tobin).

Dr. Solet requested occasional site meetings, as needed, and asked about the acoustics of the theater at the Foundry at Preservation Awards. She remarked on the recent Globe article about Community Preservation Act funding. Mr. Sullivan said that Cambridge had always allocated the required minimum ten percent for historic preservation and open space and the remaining eighty percent for affordable housing purposes. Dr. Solet and Ms. Paris suggested that the director write the editor of the Globe to set the record straight.

Dr. Solet moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Paris seconded, and the motion passed 4-0 in a roll call vote (Solet, Paris, Kleespies, Tobin). The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Burks
Preservation Planner

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**Members of the Public
Present on the Zoom Webinar online, June 8, 2023**

John Hawkinson	CambridgeDay.com
Megan Little	Stimson Studio
Matt Langan	Stimson Studio
Joshua Stevens	Stimson Studio
Todd Andrews	Centerbrook Architects
Joanne Kossuth	Lesley University, 29 Everett St.
Lucy Patton	333 Walden St

Note: Town is Cambridge, unless otherwise indicated.