



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Members:

Passiglia, John, chair (2024)
Blagg, Tim (2026)
Mayo, Doug (2024)
Jones, Margo (2026)
David Brock (2023)
Abbey, Matt (2025)
Sarah Bolduc (2025)

Meeting Minutes for: 12/7/2023

Meeting began at: 5:07 p.m. at the Zon Center

Members present: Tim Blagg, acting chair, Matt Abbey, Sarah Bolduc, Margo Jones, Dave Brock.

Visitors: Tom Meshanko, President; Peter Albero, CFO; and John Lloyd, V.P. of Security and Safety, all of Greenfield Savings Bank; Bob Williford, member, Disability Access committee.

New Business:

- Tom Meshanko, President of GSB, explained that they are not yet the legal owners of the old Library, or Leavitt Hovey House. While most of the issues regarding transfer of ownership have been resolved, there are a few remaining: the bank asked for 7 parking spaces from the new back lot. That transfer needs to be approved by City Council, which will be deliberated this month.
 - They are attending this meeting to gauge the Commission's sense of their plans. They intend to be good stewards of this historic building—they will keep up the landscape, restore and preserve the civil war monument at the front, remove the "bookmobile," and provide an elevator and handicapped access from the rear parking area (see plans attached to their proposal). They plan to paint the exterior an historic grey color, and reinstall shutters.
 - Margo explained that while our Commission's opinion will be considered, Mass. Historical Commission is the agency that will review compliance with the preservation restriction.
 - The bank explained that they had an initial discussion with Paul Holtz, the preservation planner at MHC, and intend to continue communications with him.
 - Jim Lloyd explained that the proposed project will move the Trust and Residential Mortgage departments into the historic first floor, which will be a good fit. The drawings & RFP response that had been sent to John & Margo were to be distributed to the entire Commission, but due to some confusion, were not. MJ then sent them.
 - Dave pointed out that their new building (proposed) is a national asset, and it will be worthwhile for the bank to study it further and celebrate its significance.
 - Mr. Williford, from the disabilities commission encouraged the bank to add handicapped parking spaces in the area of the removed bookmobile, which would compliment the new library's HP spaces. GSB intends to provide a ramp to the first floor from that area, which may impact the large oak on the east side.

Old Business:

- Tim Blagg continued the report on the Great Falls Battlefield Commission: site work has ended, due to season, but great progress was made in the Green River Cemetery, and the researchers will be analyzing the data found over the winter. Tim is working on acquiring approval for the Mater Delarosa cemetery for spring.
- Peter Miller Award: Tim Blagg has written a press release, which was read and approved by the Commission. It was agreed to add the Reed Apartments, which Mark and Barbara also renovated. Tim will contact Bob Morehead for the certificate template.
- Survey and Planning Grant: Margo had distributed the Phase One report to all present. She, as a representative of GHC, the consultant, town staff, and MHC will have a meeting to approve soon. Dave expressed interest in attending, if his schedule allows.
- The minutes of the meeting of 11/9 (circulated by email) were unanimously approved.

New Business, cont'd:

- Is Doug Mayo staying on the Commission, or do we have an opening? Tim will follow up with John.

The session was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on January 4, 2024 at the Zon Center.

Respectfully submitted, Margo Jones, acting secretary.

