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Reading Historical Commission Minutes

9 January 2003

2003 FEB 18 P 2: 27

Attending: Virginia Adams Louise Sandberg  
Roberta Sullivan Clay Jones  
Sharlene Santo Kendra Cooper, filming  
Wilbar Hoxie Pat Greichen  
Russ Graham, School bldg. Comm.  
Mark Cardono Sally List

Call to order: 7:30

The commission has asked Mr. Graham to a meeting to review the plans for the High school building and keep up to speed on the progress. Ultimately we will need to sign off on the project.

Mr. Graham talked about the project. The SBC had researched the building and feel there is no historical significance attached to the present high school building. He also feels that the community as a whole, and alumni as well, have little affection for the building. Cost efficiency in the building is of primary importance. The tower was built as an architectural statement of the times and present Reading residents are divided in its aesthetics. Roberta mentioned that RMHS was the first new high school built in Massachusetts after the 2nd WorldWar. The architects were prominent local architects, Adden, Parker, Clinch & Crimp. Roberta also feels that the name of the high school should remain "memorial" after veterans. A rough estimate of repair of the present building would cost in excess of \$16,000,000. A new building would be updated to present technology and adapted to present day state mandated education.

Some of the original plans are available.

Option 3 (the option preferred by the SBC at this time) would be using 55% of the present buildings. None of the renovated part would be the 1952 portion, but would include the field house and building C. Option 2 and 3 were more desirable because the phasing will be easier. The process will be voted on next week.

After Mr. Graham left, Roberta made the statement that she feels the entire building will come down. Roberta wants the commission to put the building on the inventory. She thinks it will give the commission the right to participate fully in the process and adequately document the structure. Clays feels we can do all that without putting it on the inventory. Clay suggested we wait until our March meeting to decide whether we put the building on the inventory.

Adjourned 9:05 Approved as amended Feb. 4, 2003.



Reading Historical Commission  
Minutes  
April 1, 2003

RECEIVED  
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2003 MAY -7 P 2:15

Attending:

Clayton Jones            Sharlene Santo  
Roberta Sullivan        Sally List  
Wilbar Hoxie            Mark Cardono  
Pat Greichen            Virginia Adams, acting secretary  
Guests: Peter Hechenbleikner, Kimberly Lynn.

• Library Cell Tower proposal

Peter Hechenbleikner explained Verizon's interest in siting a cell tower at the library. Verizon wants to occupy a portion of the building, strap antenna to the chimney (chimneys) and install a generator outside perhaps by the book drop.

Proposal includes a \$25,000 per year lease for 20 years with an annual increase. Mitigation options might include rebuilding the conical turret roofs. Search underway to find original architectural drawings. Questions include: How rental fee goes to support library and not to general fund (option - may deposit in a book vendors acc't for library use) and where can the book drop be relocated.

Kimberly Lynn, Library Director, is considering relocating book drop site to easterly side by removing steps and using existing stair sidewalls. Free standing drop is impractical considering high volume of use.

Clay suggested a long term maintenance clause for chimneys, installation of lightning protection, find turret roof specialists and that changes to the building should be reversible.

Other items noted: need for chimney re-pointing; building is gas heated. Request for Proposals expected end of April. "to the satisfaction of the RHC" written on some items.

The commission will do a site visit on Thur. April 6, 6pm

- A letter of resignation was received from member, Louise Sandberg.
- Minutes of March 11 approved as corrected.
- Treasurer reported no change since last report.
- Clay reported from board chairmans meeting with Town Manager. The Master Plan Study Committee plans a visioning session for Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, at Coolidge Middle School. Virginia is preparing a slide presentation.
- 320 Haverhill St. copy of deed restrictions received but not yet recorded.

Letter from developer states no one allowed on property without permission.

Motion by Wilbar to write a response that no members had been there. Passed 4-0.

- 767 Main St A letter from owner, Ingrid Khron thanking RHC for inventory addition and an interest in applying preservation restrictions to property.
- 717 Pearl St. Barn Owner is frustrated with design. Not ready for ZBA. Demo delay expires on May 19.
- 572 Haverhill St. will soon be on market. Seek to document and offer assistance to potential buyers.
- West St. Archstone /Spence Farm. Virginia met with Lyn Whyte of the Housing Authority to explore interest in moving houses off site for affordable housing.

Lot across the street is for sale.

- Roberta asked when we might think about including the high school in the Inventory. Will discuss it again at next meeting.
- Next regular meeting is May 6.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Reading Historical Commission  
Minutes  
May 22, 2003

RECEIVED  
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2003 JUN 10 A 10: 10

Attending:

Virginia Adams

Mark Cardono - Secretary

Pat Greichen

Lt. Col. Wilbar Hoxie

Clay Jones

Sally List Hilgendorff

Sharlene Reynolds Santo

Roberta Sullivan

Call to Order: 7:10 PM

High School – Review of letter regarding historical or architectural significance of the High School.

Virginia made a motion to approve the sending of the letter, dated May 22, 2003, to Mr. Hoffses that states 'The Reading Historical Commission is not aware of any historical or architectural significance of the high school at this time' (see attached). Mark seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0

Town Common – Discussion of a request for Eric's Greenhouse to plant a garden in the town common.

Virginia made a motion to disapprove the request of Eric's Greenhouse to plant a garden on the town common, which is protected as a green space. Mark seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0-0

Clay Jones stepped out of room.

456 Haverhill Street – Discussion of scheduled meeting at 9:30 AM on Friday May 23, 2003. There will only be three members in attendance.

Adjourned 7:30 PM



Town of Reading  
16 Lowell Street  
Reading, MA 01867-2683

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
(781) 942-9010  
Fax (781) 942-9070

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May 22, 2003

Mr. Keith Hoffses AIA  
DESIGN PARTNERSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE  
500 Rutherford Avenue  
Charlestown, MA 02129

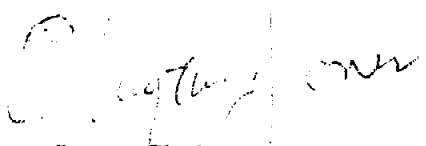
Re: Additions and Renovations to the Reading Memorial HS

Dear Mr. Hoffses:

We are not presently aware of any historically or culturally significant features of the Reading High School building or site that would preclude development of the additions and renovations for this project as approved by Town Meeting. Therefore, we approve the site for High School additions and renovations as presented to and approved by the Town.

In the event that the current design fails to proceed, then the Commission would re-evaluate its position prior to any future proposals.

Sincerely,

  
Clayton Jones, Chairman  
Reading Historical Commission