

**Hollis Historic District Commission
Minutes of the November 7, 2019 Meeting**

Call to Order

T. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The following were present: Tom Cook, Chairman; Jessica Waters, Vice Chairman; Peter Jones and Michael Bates; Regular Members.

Members absent: Frank Cadwell, Selectmen's Representative.

HDC2019-020

The application of the Morgan MacBean, to install a new business sign, property owned by Phoenix Lane, LLC, located at 4 Market Place, Map 052, Lot 031-002.

The applicant did not attend the meeting. The Historic District Commission members decided to review the application without the applicant. However, the members stated reviewing applications without the applicant is not the normal process and is discouraged.

The HDC discussed the application briefly and found that the proposed replacement sign meets the requirements and was actually a more appealing design than the original sign.

T. Cook moved to approve the application as submitted.

M. Bates Seconded.

Motion was carried unanimously.

HDC2019-021

The application of Rogers Saunders, to remove a significant tree, property owned by Congregational Church of Hollis, located at 6 Broad Street (tree is on Main St), Map 052, Lot 040.

Spencer Stickney, Pioneer Tree Service, presented case 2019-021 on behalf of the applicant. S. Stickney said the tree is located between 10 and 14 Main St. The lot the tree is on is vacant and is owned by the Church. The tree has been worked on twice in the last 4 years and only one leg of the tree is left. If the tree remains and the last leg comes down the tree could potentially hit the power lines and fall into the street or sidewalk. Both scenarios would be either a town or state issue to clean it up.

One of the arguments presented to the HDC from S. Stickney was taken from the regulations;

“Roadside trees shall be maintained, protected and replaced in kind when necessary. Mature trees, identified as significant trees...may not be removed with the Historic District except in cases where a tree is dead, decayed or a safety hazard to the public...”

S. Stickney said the tree has been significantly damaged with only one leg left. Portions of the tree are dying due to the damage and if the final leg of the tree were to fall, it would pose a safety hazard.

The second arguments taken from the Hollis HDC ordinance was;

“Significant tree: Any tree that contributes to the character of the district and that exceeds 15” in diameter at a height of 4’ above grade and is located forward of the main building on the property and/or provides a canopy to the street”

Stickney said the tree is a significant tree with the district. However, there is an argument since the tree is located on an empty lot, the tree is not forward of any main building. The tree is also 15’ from the road and does not provide a canopy to the street.

T. Cook said he went to the site and agrees the tree is not in good shape. If the proposed tree is removed it would not have any impact to the streetscape. S. Stickney agreed and said if the tree is removed there are existing saplings and ground cover which will replenish the streetscape in time. J. Waters said if a replacement tree was to be planted as the ordinance states, the new tree in time may pose a hazard if the tree were to grow into the power line. J. Waters felt a replacement tree was not needed. The HDC members agreed.

T. Cook moved to approve the application as submitted.

J. Waters seconded.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Other Business

P. Jones introduced Brandon Child, 161 North Pepperell Road, as a potential new alternate member of the HDC.

B. Child said his family moved to Hollis last year and he wanted to get involved with the HDC. D. Setaro explained the procedures of the HDC. B. Child said he would attend a future meeting and if he was still interested in becoming an alternate member he would submit a formal volunteer interest form for review.

Approval of Minutes

P. Jones moved to approve the minutes of October 3, 2019 and the minutes of October 15, 2019 as submitted.

M. Bates seconded.

Motion was carried unanimously.

T. Cook moved and P. Jones seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.