

HENNIKER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2021  
9:30 A.M. TOWN HALL

ATTENDING: Susan Adams, Joe Devine, Peter Flynn, Lisa Hustis, Warren Mattiello and Bob Pogano. Tim McComish and Kathy McCommish were in the audience. Martha Taylor came briefly for the Historical Society .

Lisa called the meeting to order at 9:30.

Minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting were moved by Bob and seconded by Warren. The minutes were approved unanimously with one grammatical change.

Joe Devine gave a summary of the application from the Historical Society to plant two trees.

1. A large maple tree in front of the Historical Society building was taken down for safety reasons.
2. The town paid for its removal.
3. The HHS is seeking to replace that tree and plant another tree in memory of Arthur Kendrick. Pending our approval, they will go before the Town to plant the tree in his memory.

A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Warren to begin the public hearing regarding these trees. Kristen McClean was introduced to represent the Historical Society and its application. They wish to replace the large maple tree that was taken down near the sidewalk on Maple Street with a hard maple—October Glory—as close to the site of the original tree as possible. This species was recommended by tree professionals and is in keeping with the name of the street. The stump is going to be removed and the tree will be planted this spring.

The second tree will be an ornamental tree (pink or red flower) in memory of Arthur Kendrick and will be placed on the south side of the building where shade is needed. It will be 20-25 feet tall and will be in the location of an elm tree in the 1900's midway up the slope. This is not at town expense and will be planted in the spring. Joe commented that it will need to be formally accepted by the BOS as a gift to the town. Peter asked about the cost—it will be approximately \$250.00—so there will be no need for a public hearing since it is not over \$5,000.00. Tim McComish suggested that the Historical Society touch base with the Highway Supervisor regarding the hard maple and offered to excavate the site for the ornamental tree.

Warren commented that the application would be appropriate. Bob moved that the public hearing be closed with a second by Warren. The vote was unanimous. It was moved (Peter) and seconded (Bob) to approve the application. The vote was unanimous and we thanked Kristen and the Historical Society for the presentation.

Warren brought forth the topic of the drainage from the NEC parking lot into Community Park. Lisa explained to the audience the erosion coming from the parking lot and that NEC was contacted and have done some work to address the situation. It has been ineffective. She remarked that expenditures for storm drains and similar projects have been pushed back by the college. Tim McComish suggested that the project will need a paved swale and a storm drain.

Lisa then opened a request by Tim McComish to discuss Woodman Park, an application approved by the Commission at its meeting in May. He had two objections: that the notification

was “marginal” and it did not mention the movement of the memorial. A discussion followed. Tim suggested that there is no positive feedback for moving it; that the memorial should be protected as originally as possible and that the other side was not heard. Joe stated that the application was approved by the HDC but needs to be put on the BOS agenda for approval. The new water line recently placed in that area must be addressed. Peter: safety is an issue for visitors to the memorial. Warren: As a veteran the memorial is considered a sacred place where one can go and contemplate. The current location is uncomfortable and it needs to be a place of quiet. Moving the WW II memorial further into Woodman Park would achieve this. Lisa: Route 114 has expanded into that area and a visitor’s back is to the oncoming traffic. Tim: It is not a safety issue. Peter suggested that it be put on the BOS agenda as soon as possible. Susan explained that the Beautification Alliance is in the process of finalizing the costs in order to go to the BOS. Joe explained that a decision by the HDC can be appealed to the ZBA within 30 days of a decision and unless there are new changes to the presentation, it needs to go to the BOS. He questioned if the benches placed on the final plan were a change to the original application. Susan will ask the chairman of the HBA, Marc McMurphy, to meet with Joe. The next step is the BOS. Lisa: maintenance of Woodman Park falls with the Parks Department and does not fall under the HDC. Peter remarked on the importance of advertising the correct time for a hearing and sticking to it. This discussion was not on the agenda.

Warren will follow up on the drainage situation at Community Park.

With no other discussion, Peter moved and Bob seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The members so voted and the meeting was adjourned at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Adams, Secretary