



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2018
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

AHC Members Present: Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Brad Maxwell (BM), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bill Klauer,

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
2. BM discussed the changes to the Chapter N Demolition Delay By-Law reviewed by town counsel and other town staff. It was agreed not to include in the definition of demolition relatively small renovation items such as replaceable siding, windows, gutters, etc. that might discourage home-owners from applying for a permit. Reviews would only include significant irreversible architectural changes to exteriors as currently defined.

Other changes adopted included language to notify abutters of permit applications, increasing the demolition delay from 12 to 18 months, specifying the non-transferability of demolition permits, an expiration time of two years from issuance of all permits, the need to market a property on the MLS or comparable residential listing service appropriate to that market, the issuance of a demolition permit only after all other permits have been granted, the good faith exemption of municipal buildings, and the allowance of demolition permits for public hazard or safety purposes. A public hearing was scheduled for Thursday June 21 at 7:00 pm to review and solicit feedback on these changes.

3. DH presented his latest draft of an RFP for additional site and building surveys of historic buildings on the Acton Cultural Resource List not found in MACRIS to be funded with 2019 CPC funds. Suggested edits and changes need to be submitted before June 27th. The final version of the RFP will be discussed, submitted by the Town Manager, reviewed by Town Counsel (by sending a copy to KG for forwarding), approved, and sent out in July with an August 15 submission deadline for responding vendors. This will enable the proposal to be

finalized and submitted to the CPC before their deadline in November.

4. BM provided an historic plaque update, saying that three plaques are on order for the West Acton Firehouse, Town Hall, and the Hearse House in Forest Lawn Cemetery.
5. No new potential AHC members volunteered.
6. A draft letter from the AHC commenting on the historical issues relating to the development of the 53 River Street was discussed and edits were suggested.
7. A discussion of a demolition application for 90 Willow Street occurred with the owners present at the meeting. They are proposing to destroy 2 of the 3 buildings on the property. It was agreed to do a walk-through on the property on June 28 with a formal hearing at 8:00 pm on July 11.
8. The June AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Historic District Commission