



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2018
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

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

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. BD introduced the new Town Manager, John Mangiaratti, who had requested an opportunity to meet with the Commission to discuss the Asa Parlin house and the Kelley's Corner (KC) road widening plan in front of the Hosmer House. The AHC had written a Section 106 response letter in March of 2018 to MassDOT regarding the latter, identifying potential adverse effects from the proposed frontage taking. Regarding the Asa Parlin House, John proposed a CPC grant to stabilize the house from further damage from neglect, and the removal of several non-historic extensions to the house that had fallen into disrepair. The AHC stated their support for this approach and agreed to write a letter of support. BK stated his hope that beyond the mothballing of the Parlin house, that the Town could find a productive use for it.

John also stated that the Town planned to submit a revised KC 25% design in which the Hosmer House frontage taking would be limited to the Town's right-of-way. The Commission stated its appreciation for this concession, but DH stated that we needed to see the Section 106 process through and couldn't officially agree to this design until the process was complete. He also expressed concerns about the Planning Department's design process generally, and the pressure it put on the Acton Historical Society to write a letter stating that there would be no adverse effects with the previous design. DH also stated that he had been in communication with Mary Hafferty of MassDOT's Cultural Resource Unit who had stated her concerns that the town planners had not been open to compromise suggestions or flexible in their positions relative to the Section 106 process.

Andrew Brockaway of the KC Steering Committee requested that he be given an opportunity to make the case for the big picture goals of KC generally, and the specific existing KC design that would take an additional two feet of Hosmer House land instead of removing it from the retail area across the street. The AHC agreed to set up a meeting with him and all the parties to the Hosmer House area KC design.

3. The 8:00 pm Hearing for the Demolition Application for 4 Piper Lane was held. This meeting was rescheduled from the previous month when neither of the owners (Brian and Susan McGoon) nor their representatives showed up. BD made it clear that this hearing was only to vote on the application for a demolition permit and did not concern itself with the townhouse development project related to this property. Based on the comments from the Commission members who had toured the property, it was deemed not to have any historical importance and the demolition application was unanimously approved on voice vote.
4. There were no Citizens' Concerns other than a question on the status of the painting and repair of the Wright Holden house by Anne Forbes. Nobody in attendance knew of the status.
5. BK reported no additional ZBA/Planning projects appearing on their web site for properties on the Cultural Resource List.
6. DH reported on the CRL/MACRIS grant proposal and RFP. The latter received only one bid and the two grant proposals were submitted before the November 19 deadlines. One, for 100% of the funding amount, went to the CPC. The other, for 50% matching funds, was sent to the MHC Survey and Planning Dept.
7. BM provided an update on the proposed changes to the Chapter N Demolition Delay By-Law reviewed by town counsel and other town staff. At this point it was agreed to get this final version on the warrant for the April Town Meeting.
8. Jaye Oman has become an official associate member of the Commission.
9. The 53 River Street Master Planning Committee is looking for input and comments on the types of surveys and inventory forms for their CPC application. BK and Anne Forbes agreed to update the MACRIS form to include the dam and other mill-related features on the site.
10. The October AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Historic District Commission