

/ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019
7:30 pm
Town Hall, Room 126

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

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. He introduced the new Selectman Liaison to the AHC, David Martin, who replaced Katie Green.

2. Regular Business

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the AHC’s April 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of 5-0.
- 2) Citizen concerns: The only citizen concerns expressed related to the 90 School Street 40B application (see below) and issues related to the scale of the project.
- 3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL: DH stated that he had reviewed the meeting agendas and hearings of the ZBA and did not recognize any historic properties for review.
- 4) Cultural Resource List update – Status Report: Now that the CPC application for updating historic building survey records has passed Town Meeting, a project team was formed for follow-through. It consists of JO (chair), BD, and DH. The AHC voted unanimously to approve PAL’s bid to do the work, and will begin meetings with PAL to move forward.
- 5) Demolition Delay By-Law – Status Report: Following the approval of the AHC-proposed changes to the Chapter N town bylaw at the April 1 Town Meeting, we will wait for the approval of the Mass. AG before proceeding with the new regulations. BM will meet with Frank Ramsbottom to coordinate compliance with the new by-law provisions.

- 6) Inventory forms for town buildings: JO took pictures of the town buildings proposed to receive historic plaques and the Commission reviewed them and marked them up with the installation locations to help the town attach the plaques. These were the Edward Forbes farmhouse, the “Red House” next to the Town Hall, and the Acton Fire Department Station 2.
- 7) Review plaque placement on current buildings: JO took pictures of the buildings already approved to receive historic plaques and the Commission marked them up for installation.

3. New/Special Business

- 8) Discuss bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT: No new activity
- 9) Discuss feasibility of an Archeological By-Law: BK proposed a review of an Archaeological Town By-Law to supplement Chapter N (historic building demolition). BK will investigate other towns that have such a by-law, contact Ed Ball at the MHC, and gather information for a draft to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 10) Discuss 66 Maple Street site visit. Richard Damaino purchased 66 Maple Street at auction and requested a demolition permit and subdivision of the property. Several AHC members attended a walk-through on April 16. Based on this assessment, BD wrote a letter supporting subdividing the property assuming the original front section of the house is retained. A formal vote to support this approach was passed unanimously 5-0, and BD will summarize this position in a letter to the Planning Department.
- 11) Discuss 90 School Street 40B application and HDC letter. The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to support the HDC letter that expressed reservations about the scale, location, and effect of this housing project on the South Acton Historical District. The AHC will write a letter to this effect along with its concerns about the archaeological assessment which has not been completed. Given the number of pre-contact native-American artifacts already found in this area, the AHC looks forward to participating in the Section 106 historical review.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment: At 9:10 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of April, 2019