

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2019
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)

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.
2. Citizen's Concerns: Robert Sekuler expressed concern that the Lake Nagog archeological survey written by PAL had not been made public. BD explained that it was confidential and had not been released to the public due to concerns about looting of archaeological sites and could only be discussed in Executive Session of the AHC. BD stated that he would schedule an executive session of the AHC on February 19.
3. BK reported no additional ZBA/Planning projects appearing on their web site for properties on the Cultural Resource List. DH was not able to review the ZBA meetings and agendas for possible CRL building activity but will do so in the future.
4. DH provided an update on the CRL/MACRIS survey update grant proposal to the Survey and Planning Department of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This proposal for 50% matching funds to supplement the application to the Acton Community Preservation Committee was submitted a week in advance of the February 11 deadline. DH worked with one of the grant analysts (Peter Stott) in the State Historical Preservation Officer's office to make sure the application conformed to their expectations.
5. BD convened the 8:00 pm Public Hearing on the proposed Chapter N By-Law changes to be presented and voted on at the April 1 Town Meeting. Nobody showed up at this hearing so we proceeded to discuss next steps. BM and BD will be attending the Town Meeting pre-meeting to finalize the specifics and formatting of their proposal. BM wrote up a final summary of the

by-law changes that he will send to all AHC members so we can promote its passage among the historical preservation community.

6. The 53 River Street project was reviewed by BK. Anne Forbes is working on a draft of an area form for MACRIS which she will send to BK for review. Her deadline is March 14.
7. A discussion of the walk-through occurred of the 32-34 Elm Street property that developer Mark Gallagher is looking to partially demolish. There is no formal demolition proposal yet, although the developer's goal is to keep the barn and main house while demolishing the newer house and its connector to the main house.
8. A reminder was issued on the need for all AHC members to finish the Conflict of Interest Law training and send the completion diploma to the Town Clerk.
9. The individual undertaking the exterior renovation of the Wright (Silas) Holden House (Michael Capizzi) asked the AHC on how best to organize a celebration for this effort. BD contacted him and expressed support for his efforts although the neither the AHC nor the Acton Historical Society are involved in his Mass. Tourism Dept.-funded project.
10. A discussion occurred over the partial removal of a stone wall at 2 Wyndcliff Drive. This generated a discussion on the preservation issues surrounding the town's Chapter J Scenic By-Law. DH will research this.
11. BD stated that he has written and submitted the annual AHC contribution to the Town Report
12. BD stated that he received a request from MassDOT for Section 106 historical comment on Phase 2B of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The letter was dated December 21, 2018, and MassDOT requested comments within 30 days. Although the deadline passed, it was agreed to comment anyway. The AHC sees no adverse historical effects of this proposed rail trail bridge across Route 2 connecting to the Phase 2C in Concord.
13. A discussion of additional town buildings to receive historical plaques took place. Those nominated were the Morrison Farmhouse, the old South Acton Fire Station, the West Acton Mount Hope Cemetery building, and the Municipal Properties Building at 468 Main St.
14. The January meeting minutes were approved with one edit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk

Town Manager
Historic District Commission