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## ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2011  
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer, vice-chair (BK), Anita Dodson, (AD), Jim Chiarelli (JC), Bill Dickinson (BD), Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. BK called the meeting to order. First, the Commission addressed the demolition delay at 57 Robbins St. / the Beacon Court subdivision. Attending on behalf of the landowner and developer was Glen Kaufmann. The Commission voted unanimously that, subject to and effective upon Roland Bartl's approval of the pending subdivision plan, the demolition delay is lifted. BK will write a letter to inform the building department.
2. Next, the Commission discussed the demolition application for the barn at 12 Coughlin Street. The applicants were present, and provided pictures of the barn and explained that the roof collapsed as a result of the snowfall this past winter. Commission members also conducted informal visits to the property. The applicants are looking to rebuild the barn as close to the original as possible, and have hired Peter Grover to design the restoration. After reviewing the applicants' plans for the faithful restoration of the barn, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the demolition application. BK will write a letter to inform the building department.
3. Minutes from the Commission's March 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Next, the Commission reviewed the historical projects approved for CPA funding, and noted that all applications for such projects were approved at Town Meeting.
5. Discussion turned to 6 Piper Road. BK stated that he met with the high bidder for the property, who expressed questions about the preservation restriction that will be held by the Board of Selectmen, which will consult with the Commission on certain preservation matters. The Commission will review the preservation restriction agreement for its next meeting.
6. The Commission then discussed the Wright-Holden Farmhouse. AD related a conversation she had with Carol Dwyer regarding work done to repair the roof of the house recently, and suggested that a letter of thanks from the Commission to Mr. Gelb, the department of corrections superintendent who oversaw the work, would be in order and appreciated. BK will write a letter of thanks to Mr. Gelb.

7. The Commission next resumed its consideration the current status of the house located at 153 Summer Street. During a prior meeting to discuss the smaller building on the property for which a demo application was granted, the Commission the house and the fact that, through a clerical error, the main house was no longer listed on the Cultural Resource List (CRL). The Commission discussed that, the house was originally on the CRL, but the property was renumbered and the CRL was not updated, with the result that the small structure was included on the CRL rather than the main house. The Commission discussed the house's history, current condition and additions, and that it dates at least as far back as 1860 and is probably even older. The Commission considered whether the house is savable, and whether to correct the CRL at this point. The Commission voted unanimously (4-0, with 1 abstention) in favor of correcting the CRL to list 153 Summer Street; BK recused himself from the vote.
8. Next, the Commission reviewed the most recent application for an historic marker, for 750 Main Street. The Commission unanimously approved the marker application. BM will send an approval letter and ordering materials to the applicant.
9. JC discussed the archaeological considerations of the stairway construction Eagle Scout project proposed by William Long. JC contacted Ed Bell to determine whether a permit is needed for the excavation work that would be involved in the stairway construction and reported that a permit will indeed be required for any excavation, which will make timing tight. JC will evaluate and discuss with the Kimberley Connors-Hughes, the architect of record, whether there are any way to approve the project if an opinion is given regarding that no damage will be done to the stonework on the floor of the cellar hole.
10. Discussion next turned to the Morrison Farm. BD noted that he took a tour of the property with Steve LeDoux, and will be informally observing the construction to ensure compliance with Secretary of the Interior standards. At present, the town is debating whether to remove the lead from the windows or replace them, and BD suggested the names of historically appropriate window manufacturers if the Town decides to replace them.
11. Finally, JC noted that one week from Friday there is a meeting regarding the Caouette-Simeone land and preservation restriction. JC will be representing the Commission at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Brad Maxwell, clerk*

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Manager  
Town Library  
Historic District Commission