

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2011
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

R E C E I V E D
DEC 15

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Kimberley Connors-Hughes (KCH), Anita Dodson (AD),
Victoria Beyer (VB), Bill Dickinson (BD), Brad Maxwell (BM), Jim Chiarelli (JC)

1. BK called the meeting to order. Minutes for the Commission's October 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. The Commission then discussed the status of the demolition and redevelopment plans for 90 School Street, which is currently subject to a demolition delay. Aaron Jodka stated that the Design Review Board advised him that it will not be able to provide design recommendations. Mr. Jodka showed the Commission his revised plans for the new house he would like to build, which is restricted because of the non-conforming status of the lot. The Commission noted that the scale and design are in keeping with the immediately surrounding houses, and advised that it would be helpful to retain the large tree in the front yard, if possible. The Commission unanimously voted to lift the demolition delay, on the basis of the plans dated October 1, 2011 being carried out.
3. Next, the Commission reviewed the demolition of the barn at 43 Newtown Road, which is listed on the Cultural Resource List. The homeowners and builder presented evidence of the storm damage suffered by the barn. The owners noted that their initial intent was to repair the barn, and a building permit was originally issued to remove the roof and repair the walls and foundation. But, as the repairs progressed, more repairs were required. The owners confirmed their intent to rebuild the barn to replicate the old structure as closely as possible, and the only potential change would be that the barn door (same size) may roll up, instead of sliding sideways. The Commission urged the homeowners to mimic the existing door as much as possible. The Commission reviewed the demolition delay bylaw, noting that this satisfies the requirements for a "voluntary demolition" but that, under Section 4.4, the Commission may waive the penalties for a voluntary demolition if the owner submits documentation evidencing intent to complete a faithful restoration. The Commission unanimously voted to waive the remedies for a voluntary demolition on the basis of receipt of documentation (including the building permit, issued to "match existing" structure) evidencing the owners' intent to complete a faithful restoration of the barn.
4. AD then informed the Commission about the status of volunteer assistance with copying and scanning CRL updates. BK has spoken with Mark Hald, who agreed to assist with uploading the update files. JC will make another copy of the thumb drive for Mark Hald.
5. BK noted that the Spanish American War Memorial has already been moved, to the place we recommended. The new veterans' memorial will be dedicated on November 11, as planned.
6. Next, the Commission reviewed the modification to the cell tower near the post office, adjacent to the Isaac Davis Trail. BK noted that the plan has been referred for zoning review.
7. BK will attend the November 14th meeting of all boards and committees.
8. The Commission next took notice of the pending bill to reduce the advisory role and power of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Commission unanimously voted to prepare a letter to Senator Eldridge informing him of this development and our opposition to it.