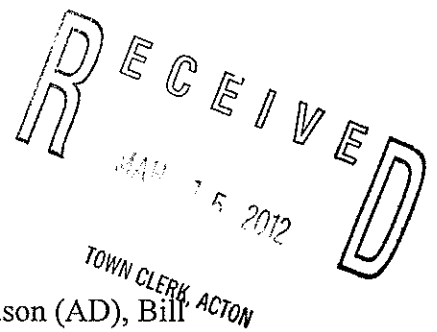


Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2012
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126



AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Anita Dodson (AD), Bill Dickinson (BD), Brad Maxwell (BM), Jim Chiarelli (JC); also present was David Clough (DC), the Commission's liaison to the Board of Selectmen

1. BK called the meeting to order. Minutes for the Commission's January 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Linda McElroy spoke to the Commission about dam restoration efforts in the area of the Trail Through Time. Linda related that Massachusetts is undergoing a state-wide project to restore dams. According to the restoration group hired by the state to evaluate this dam, full restoration would cost approximately \$600,000. Linda noted that the steps involved would be to clear vegetation first, and then to approach the dam restoration, possibly in a piecemeal fashion. VB noted that Massachusetts Historic Commission matching grants may be available to assist with the restoration costs. DC suggested that increased online visibility for the Trail Through Time could also generate support for the project.
3. JC reported on a conversation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) regarding electronic copies of the Cultural Resource List (CRL) updates completed recently by Diane Sergeij. MHC requested MS Word copies of the CRL updates, and BD will contact Diane to obtain them.
4. Next, BD reported that 10 applicants submitted responses to the RFQ for Phase I of the 17 Woodbury Avenue, and the committee will review the responses and conduct interviews.
5. The Commission has submitted its signed release form to the Town to allow site visits to the bridges on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Roland Bartl will inform the Commission to schedule the site walk.
6. Discussion then turned to the Assabet River Rail Trail. BK is working with Ann Forbes on a National Register area form for the historic structures and remains in the area. BK will discuss with Roland Bartl the Town's plans for the excavated buildings and engine house.
7. The Commission then discussed the inventory forms for the Town's three biggest cemeteries. Roland Bartl advised that the Commission will need to develop an RFP, and we have \$14,000 to spend on the project. BK will talk to Ann Forbes to obtain a model RFP.
8. Next, the Commission reviewed its Demolition Delay Bylaw (Chapter N of the Town Bylaws). The Building Department interprets the bylaw as not applying to renewals of expired building permits. The Commission will continue to evaluate the language of Chapter N to determine whether more specific language is needed to apply to such renewals, renovations, etc. The Commission will also look into how other towns handle these situations.
9. With respect to incoming correspondence, the Commission resolved that BK will appoint a Commission member to respond to inquiries received.