

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2012
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

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

1. BK called the meeting to order. First, the Commission considered citizens' concerns. Paul Gaboury (PG) appeared to discuss the possible redevelopment of 6 Chadwick Street, which is on the Cultural Resource List (CRL). PG wishes to replace some or all of the existing structure (1,300 sf) with a larger house (3,000 sf) that is similar in scale to the newer, surrounding houses. The Commission explained the process for demolition applications for CRL structures, and suggested that PG retain the old portion of the house and integrate an addition to enlarge the house. PG noted that the existing house is structurally sound, and is willing to pursue such an arrangement. PG will return to the Commission to discuss plans for such an addition.
2. Next, the Commission reviewed and unanimously approved minutes from its October 2012 meeting and revised minutes from its September 2012 meeting.
3. Discussion then turned to the Commission's plans to publicize the historic plaque program. BM will take additional pictures for the post card, and will redistribute the proposed text for the card. VB will continue transcribing the CRL to assist with the mailing.
4. BD then reported to the Commission about recent developments on the Asa Parlin House. The architect presented the steering committee's preferred "cold shell" option to the Board of Selectmen, and BD will be returning to the Selectmen to request their endorsement for the project. BD also noted that the new CPA funding application incorporates the stabilization and demolition work, as well as the completion of the exterior renovations. BD will work with the steering committee to complete the application and submit to the CPC.
5. BK next updated the Commission on the Central Street Planned Conservation Residential Community (PCRC). It has been agreed that the Town will own the wedge-shaped parcel between the cemetery and the proposed development, to preserve the historic cemetery markers and provide a buffer area.
6. The Commission then discussed the proposed work at the Morrison Farm, noting that the Cemetery Commission voted to turn down the proposed land swap that would have rededicated the land adjacent to the Robbins homestead to the Morrison Farm project. BK noted that he has resigned from the Morrison Farm Committee because of conflicting duties. The Commission voted: (1) that the Commission would like to see the Robbins memorial and homestead foundation preserved and integrated with the Morrison Farm Project, irrespective of ownership (4-0-1 vote, with BK abstaining); and (2) that the Commission supports the preservation and integration of the ice house foundation and area into the Morrison Farm project (unanimous).

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission

