

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – ~~November 14~~^{December 12}, 2012
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

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. Anne Forbes (AF) attended and asked the Commission about the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding that had been approved for a National Register nominations for the historic cemeteries. BK noted that the timeline for using that CPA funding has expired, and AF encouraged the Commission to reapply for fresh CPA funds.
2. Next, minutes for the Commission's November meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.
3. BK then noted for the Commission that Paul Gaboury sent notice that he is no longer pursuing a possible redevelopment of 6 Chadwick Street, which is on the Cultural Resource List (CRL).
4. The Commission will continue its work on a post card publicity campaign for the historic plaque program.
5. The Commission then considered the recent developments regarding CPA funding for the Asa Parlin House stabilization and renovation project. The Selectmen voted to withdraw the CPA funding application from consideration. BD suggested that the Commission revisit the project in several months, including a possible scaled back/low cost option involving only demolition and stabilization. BD will attend the next CPC meeting to determine the availability of the balance of the previously approved CPA funds for the project.
6. BK reported to the Commission about recent Planning Board and developer agreements on the Central Street Planned Conservation Residential Community (PCRC). In sum, it was determined that the disputed "wedge" shaped parcel belongs to the Town and will be treated as "open space", while the G.A.R. marked portion will remain with the cemetery. The Cemetery Commission will also have an easement for access to the shed structure on the cemetery lot.
7. The Commission next turned to discussion of the Morrison Farm project. The CPA application was approved for submission by the Selectmen, and a CPA application will be submitted this month. JC discussed the archaeologist proposal obtained for an initial survey, as well as the potential need for a broader archaeological survey and possible interaction with Ed Bell of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. BK related that the Cemetery Commission has agreed to allow the proposed use and pathways across the land adjacent to the Robbins homestead. BD then discussed the Morrison Farm History and Nature Center building that will be constructed as part of the proposed Morrison Farm project. BD related that the Morrison Farm Committee is interested in obtaining a letter of support from the Commission regarding the historic elements of the project and of the new History and Nature Center building, and the Commission reviewed draft letters for this purpose. BM and BD discussed the plans to incorporate permanent displays in the Center that will be dedicated to the history of the area. BK noted that the Captain Robbins Alarm Stone cannot be relocated as part of the project. AF asked the Commission to consider the

loss of the existing barn structure that will be replaced by the new building. The Commission determined it was important to include its letter of support now, with necessary conditions, so that it is incorporated into the CPA funding application. The Commission unanimously voted to issue a letter of support that includes the following two conditions (a) there shall be no disturbance of the Alarm Stone without prior approval of the Historical Commission and (b) the new History and Nature Center must incorporate permanent displays celebrating the history of the Morrison Farm and the area. BD and BM will revise the letter accordingly and send.

8. Discussion then turned to the Commission's update to the Town's annual report. BK and BM will finalize the updates and submit.
9. BK next noted that the Commission will produce a tribute to Anita Dodson, who served on the Commission for four decades. VB and BK will draft the tribute for inclusion with the annual report to the Town.
10. Finally, the Commission reviewed the modification of plans for the existing cellular telephone tower at 533 Main Street and determined that no comment was necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission