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Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2013
8:00 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Brad Maxwell (BM), Jim Chiarelli (JC) and Katie Green (KG), the Commission's Selectmen liaison

Members of the Public: Martha Rounds and Franny Osman (Wright Hill Association); Pat Clifford and Michaela Moran (SATSAC); Joseph Fleury McCarthy; Brad Graham

1. BK called the meeting to order and invited members from the SATSAC to open discussion. Michaela Moran and Pat Clifford explained that the SATSAC is developing permanent informational panels for the two new train station platforms, and is seeking input from the Commission and others regarding the potential themes and historical information. Among themes being considered are maps, railroads, landmarks, economic and agriculture for the area. Martha Rounds suggested looking into Maynard and other surrounding towns. BK will coordinate with SATSAC to relay the Commission's recommendations.
2. Next, BK introduced Fleury McCarthy to provide an update on the house at 79 Robbins Street. During its July meeting, the Commission approved design plans for an addition that incorporated the original foundation from the 1890s. Given moisture concerns, though, reuse of the old foundation may not be possible. The Commission unanimously approved the removal of the original foundation if necessary for the new, moisture-proof foundation under the new addition.
3. BK then invited discussion of citizens' concerns, and introduced Martha Rounds and Franny Osman from the Wright Hill Association, which purchased the Wright Hill land and house. The Association is applying for CPA funding for the purchase of much of the land by the Town for historical preservation and open space purposes. The Association would like the Commission to prepare a letter of support for the historic elements of the CPA application. The Commission determined to review the CPA application and then prepare a letter of support L for vote at the next monthly meeting. BK and BM will draft the letter for review.
4. Next, the Commission unanimously approved meeting minutes from its September and October meetings.
5. Regarding the Historical Plaque Program, all publicity postcards are addressed and BK will handle getting them mailed.
6. BK then noted that there has been no update regarding the proposed cell tower at 5 Craig Road. KG will inform the Commission if the tower comes up again for discussion by the Selectmen.
7. KG provided an update on ongoing historical matters with the Selectmen, including a proposal from Dean Charter for CPA funding to repaint the Town Hall in historic colors.
8. BK related the latest development regarding the Morrison Farm, as the Commission sent the CPC a letter supporting the historical elements of the project, but appropriately qualified because the Commission has not been given an opportunity to review the final CPA application submitted by the Morrison Farm Committee.

9. Next, BK noted that the Commission will need to provide an annual report by the end of the year. The Commission discussed accomplishments and topics considered during the year.
10. Finally, JC noted that he will be resigning from the Commission in 2014, as he will be temporarily moving to the Philippines.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission