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Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2014
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Bill Dickinson (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Brad Maxwell (BM) and Jim Chiarelli (JC)

Members of the Public: Brad Graham, Melissa Chaffee, Jack Norton

1. BK called the meeting to order and opened discussion for citizens' concerns.
 - a. Jack Norton (JN) explained that he is interested in selling his property (2 lots) at 7 Great Road to his neighbor, but learned that the house is on the Cultural Resource List (CRL), which is complicating his sale discussion. JN requested that the Commission remove his property from the CRL. The Commission explained that the proper process for a determination on allowing a demolition of a CRL-listed structure begins with an application for a demolition permit. JN will submit an application to begin the process.
 - b. The Commission heard from Melissa Chaffee (MC), who was curious about redevelopment plans for 79 Robbins Street. The Commission reviewed its minutes and related that it approved a new foundation due to moisture concerns with the existing foundation. BK also related history of the house.
 - c. The Commission then considered a citizen's email inquiry regarding the CRL qualifications for 201 High Street. After reviewing its file, the Commission determined to reply to the inquiring citizen by pointing out other possible sources of information about the property, including the Memorial Library and the MACRIS system.
2. BK informed the Commission of a partial demolition at 70 Maple Street that was performed without Commission approval. The demolition consisted of the removal of a small, modern entryway that was not original to the house, and the demo application was reviewed and permitted by the Board of Appeals because the structure was nonconforming.
3. The Commission next reviewed a demolition permit application received for 84 Willow Street, to remove an existing garage and re-grade the area. VB read the CRL inventory form and BK will schedule a hearing for next month's meeting, publish notice of the hearing and inform the applicant.
4. The Commission unanimously approved meeting minutes from its January 2014 meeting.
5. Next, BM updated the Commission regarding recent historical plaque program communications:
 - a. The Commission continued its investigation of 3 Taylor Road and unanimously approved language for a plaque (Joseph Reed Barn, c. 1856). BM will contact the applicant with the approval and order form materials.
 - b. The Commission reviewed the application received for 132 Central Street and also read its file on the property. The Commission determined that more information was needed to approve the plaque as requested, and BM will follow-up with the applicant.

- c. An inquiry was received for another house on Taylor Road, and BM will contact the applicant to assist with filling out the correct paperwork.
 - d. The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved an application for 154 Main Street, subject to review and confirmation of the information from the CRL inventory form. BM will review the inventory form and provide the approval and order form materials.
 - e. BM will also reply to the inquiry from the owner of 3 Wood Lane with information for submitting a plaque application.
6. VB next provided an update on Community Preservation Act funding applications for historical projects, including Morrison Farm, Town Hall, the Acton Women's Club, the West Acton Baptist Church, Wright Hill, etc. VB also related that the Commission's letter of support for the release of funding related to work on the Hosmer House has been sent.
 7. BK then updated the Commission on the SATSAC's informative panels for the new South Acton Train Station. The MBTA is behind on construction, but BK continues to provide factual information for the panels, including a timeline.
 8. The Commission discussed an inquiry received from a Michigan State University graduate student researching demolition bylaws. VB will review and respond to the MSU informational survey.
 9. Finally, the Commission accepted JC's resignation from the Commission, as he is moving to the Philippines for two years, and thanked JC for his service. BK will look into expediting approval of a new Commission member through the Volunteer Coordinating Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission