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

AHC Members Present: Bill Dickinson (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Brad Maxwell (BM), Katie Green (KG)
Members of the Public: Brad Graham, Jane Morris, Wilford Neptune, Sukhjinder Bajwa

1. BD called the meeting to order and opened discussion for citizens' concerns and noted Anne Forbes' email to the Commission regarding an upcoming historical conference. BD will check with BK to see if he can attend and will respond to Anne Forbes.
2. The Commission then unanimously approved meeting minutes from its February 2014 meeting.
3. Next, BM updated the Commission regarding recent historical plaque program communications. The Commission will consider ordering plaques for Town owned buildings, including Theatre III, Town Hall, Morrison Farm and the red bungalow next door, and the Windsor Ave. fire station. The Commission will review the inventory forms and determine three buildings at next month's meeting.
4. [The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 8:00 p.m. for a public hearing on 84 Willow Street. The meeting then resumed at the conclusion of the hearing at 8:25 p.m.] The Commission then discussed the demolition permit application for the garage structure at 84 Willow Street. The Commission unanimously determined that (i) the outbuilding was a preferably preserved structure on the property, but (ii) because of the condition of the structure, there is no reasonable likelihood that it could be preserved, and (iii) the owners/applicants were receptive to design recommendations for replacing the structure with another garage of historically appropriate size and architecture, so (iv) therefore the Commission approves the demolition permit with recommendations for the new replacement garage. BD will send a letter to Frank Ramsbottom informing of the decision.
5. KG next updated the Commission regarding recent and upcoming Board of Selectmen matters impacting historical resources, including the space needs study.
6. VB then provided an update regarding Community Preservation Committee historical matters for the upcoming Town Meeting, including: (a) Town Hall repainting will not be pursued this year; (b) Acton Women's Club lift for second floor access; (c) Arboretum parking lot and board walk improvements; (d) Wright Hill open space; (e) Morrison Farm trails and archaeological survey work; and (f) West Acton Baptist Church projects.
7. Finally, the Commission reviewed new correspondence received:
 - a. VB is answering the survey inquiry from a Michigan State Univ. graduate student
 - b. BD will forward the letter from Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding property/inventory form updates to BK for a response
 - c. A demolition application was received in the Commission's mailbox for 7 Great Road, and BD will work with BK to schedule a hearing on the application for April (date will depend on rescheduled meeting, as usual meeting date conflicts with Town Meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission