

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2014
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 121

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer, Chair (BK), Bill Dickinson (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Brad Maxwell (BM) and Brad Graham (BG)

Members of the Public Present: Katie Green

1. The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from its June 2014 meeting.
2. Next, BM updated the Commission on developments with the historical plaque program, including his conversation with resident Mary Donald regarding her plaque application. Ms. Donald was offered the Commission's assistance in determining the age of her house, given her belief that the house was constructed earlier than the construction date listed in the Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form. Ms. Donald will be referred to the Acton Historical Society for further assistance. The Commission then discussed funding for plaques for Acton Town Hall, West Acton Fire Station, and Hearse House.
3. The Commission then discussed the apparent demolition of a stone wall located at 7 Piper Road, and the limitations imposed on home owners regarding changes to or demolition of stone walls on private property. The Commission reviewed Chapter J of the General Bylaws of the Town of Acton ("Scenic Road Bylaw") and determined that Piper Road is a "scenic road" subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 15C. The Commission unanimously voted to send a letter to the owners of 7 Piper Road, with a copy to the Planning Board, advising the owners of the bylaw.
4. The Commission then considered methods of enforcement of the Scenic Road Bylaw and ways to raise awareness of the bylaw and those roads designated as scenic roads.
5. The Commission received a notice of public hearing on an application of John Flannery for a certificate of new construction to build two duplexes on Flannery Way. This property is subject to review by the Historic District Commission, and the notice will be forwarded to the town clerk.
6. Finally, the Commission discussed its previous proposal for an archaeology bylaw which would, in part, require a property owner to investigate the archaeological significance of the property prior to certain property development. Such a bylaw could potentially include provisions for the protection of stone walls. The Commission discussed a timeline for preparing the proposed bylaw for a vote at the April 2015 Town Meeting, including public hearing(s) and presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission will consider the matter further at its next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Graham, Clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission