

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2014
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 121

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

Members of the Public Present: Katie Green, Ann Chang, Linda McElroy, Anne Forbes

1. The Commission heard comments from Ann Chang and Linda McElroy regarding a proposed archaeological site assessment of Morrison Farm, and reviewed a proposal from Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project regarding the scope and cost of the assessment. Craig Chartier of Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project will supervise the assessment, which will be performed using CPC funding. VB agreed to be the Commission liaison to the Morrison Farm Committee and will be kept apprised of Mr. Chartier's work.
2. Ms. McElroy informed the Commission that Mr. Chartier suggested the Stone Chamber, located in North Acton, could qualify for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. McElroy agreed to forward to the Commission Mr. Chartier's report making the suggestion, which will be discussed at a future meeting.
3. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), as part of its review of the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, performed an assessment of the site of the former North Acton pencil factory, which is adjacent to the proposed Trail. MHC determined that the site may qualify for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. After review of MHC's initial assessment of the site, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse MHC's application to have the site placed on the National Register. The Commission will prepare a letter in support of MHC's application. The Commission will seek additional support and approval from the Town Manager, Conservation Commission (as the former pencil factory site is on town conservation land), and the Board of Selectmen. Anne Forbes suggested that the Commission provide the Town Manager, Conservation Commission, and the Board of Selectmen with MHC's information sheet "Know How #3" (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/knowhow3.pdf>), which includes information on the National Register application process and how a listing on the National Register would impact the site.
4. The Commission will notify the Rail Trail Committee of MHC's intent to apply for National Register status for the former pencil factory site.
5. The Commission then discussed funding to rehabilitate the former pencil factory site and improve accessibility to the public. The site is divided by Nashoba Brook. There is no longer a bridge

spanning Nashoba Brook, which limits access to much of the site. Anne Forbes proposed that the Commission's letter in support of MHC's application include a suggestion to replace the bridge so that the public can fully explore the site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Graham, Clerk

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission