



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2016
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Brad Maxwell, and Katie Green (KG) – BOS Liaison

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. The first agenda item was the possible sale and demolition of a house under agreement at 184 Main Street to an interested 40B developer, Greg Adams. Greg and the owners, who were present, were interested in the commission members' thoughts following the walk-through of the property that occurred on Monday, August 22. VB provided a historical overview of this house, known as the Elonzo Tower House. BD stated that it appeared structurally sound and very salvageable, and the commission would look favorably on a resizing of the house back to its original historic dimensions, but not a demolition. BK concurred, stating that the consensus of the group is not to issue a demolition permit. BD further stated that the group would be disposed to approving a move of the house to another location on the lot or the resizing mentioned above, but would not approve a demolition permit.
2. A member of the public, Bob Sekuler, asked to discuss the Lake Nagog water treatment plant upgrade proposed by the Town of Concord. He presented an archeological sensitivity assessment from the 1990's that had been commissioned to examine a limited area of the property. He was concerned that an updated assessment covering the larger area proposed for development had not been undertaken. This assessment was released by Concord as required by the Mass. Historical Commission as part of the expanded proposal filing. It was also stated that a one-mile fence had been installed around the perimeter of the property without notice and without an environmental impact study. It was agreed that BK would write a letter with the AHC's comments to the Mass. Environmental Protection Agency with a cc: to the Mass. Historical Society stating that 1) the AHC was not notified of the Concord proposal, 2) a mile-

long fence had been constructed without the requisite archaeological and environmental impact assessments and 3) that a form H (site survey form) should be commissioned and that Concord should pay for it.

3. A member of the public, Xiao Wu of InDiviArt, returned to propose again that she be permitted to occupy the town-owned Asa Parlin House and restore it, contributing \$300 a month for this effort. She was given 15 minutes to speak. Afterwards it was reiterated that over \$100,000 in renovations would be needed just to enable occupancy of the property and the Board of Selectmen, who owned the house, was unwilling to spend these funds. This concluded this proposal and discussion.
4. The 31-45 Martin St. 40B proposal was reviewed. The current proposal has 2 of the 3 existing buildings slated for moves to other areas of the property. Ann Forbes revealed that an 1876 stone sidewalk along the 31-34 Martin St. section (Acton's last original stone sidewalk) should be preserved. It was recommended that an inventory form for the sidewalk be created and sent to the MHC.
5. KG updated the group on the Morrison Farm Committee and building discussions. She stated that a meeting would be held on October 17 to discuss options and issue recommendations and that she would collect recommendations from the AHC at its next meeting on October 12. A discussion took place on options for the house since the Morrison Farm Committee had voted to tear it down but keep the barn. The recreation Department is not interested in the house either. One option suggested was to move the house closer to the Bruce Freeman rail trail for some future unspecified use in order to be closer to this traffic.
6. The issue of the Cultural Resource List and its accessibility was discussed again. BK updated the group stating that he would contact Mark Hald in IT to add the CRL and MACRIS to the Building Department web site.
7. A request for information on the state of the 111 Summer Street properties was made. BK replied to a question from Matthew Selby of Land Use and Economic Development saying that it was not on the CRL.
8. The American United Lawsuit against the town of Acton for using town preservation funds for the two Congregational churches was discussed. There will be a preliminary hearing on September 14, at the Woburn Middlesex Court.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission