



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2016
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

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

Members of the Public Present: Barry Elkin

1. BK called the meeting to order and recognized Barry Elkin who updated the group on the proposal by the town of Concord to expand the Lake Nagog water treatment plant footprint. Barry offered to continue briefing the group on the activities of his group of interested adjacent homeowners and would continue to press for the updated archeological assessment into areas not covered by the original site permit (wooded area for solar panels and expansion area). A hearing on this proposal was postponed until July 18, 2016.
2. BK proposed a motion to accept the April minutes, which was passed. BK then passed around an album of old post cards of Acton. He pointed out several colorized cards of the Town Hall to try to get a sense of the old color scheme, which looked to be a light yellow cream color. It was concluded that because the card had been hand-colored, it was not possible to definitely determine the color. BK said he would follow up with David Honn of the Historic District Commission on his proposal to constitute and chair a panel to review historically appropriate paint colors so that the AHC could recommend a palette to KG who would take it to the Selectmen to vote on.
3. BK passed around a request for bids to assist in getting the Forest Cemetery in Acton on the National Register. BM suggested that some of the language, copied from a previous proposal, might be updated by someone familiar with the current legal language, the current style requirements, and the bid process. Then it can be submitted to the National Register after being approved by Mass. Historical. VB suggested an internet search on cemetery applications on the

National Registry website. BK said he would work with BM on updating the proposal.

4. BM reported on the plaque program, saying that he was up to date with the vendor and had not received any new requests. It was proposed, and voted on, to fund plaques out of the AHC budget for the West Acton Fire Station, the Town Hall, and the cemetery Hearse House. It was decided to order these plaques now but to discuss this effort with the HDC before installing them.
5. BK began a discussion about re-organizing the AHC for next year. He asked about the need for a new chairman but there were no volunteers. It was felt that despite his long service as Commission chair, Bill was the most qualified to continue in this role. The discussion was inconclusive and the topic of the Commission membership was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission