



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

## ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes – April 13, 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), and Katie Green (KG) – BOS Liaison

Members of the Public Present: Fran Arsenault, David Honn

1. BK called the meeting to order, notifying the members that Warren Richmond was not able to make the meeting and thus there would be no previous meeting minutes to review.
2. David Honn of the Historic District Commission reported on the project to repaint the Town Hall, reviewed the Certificate of Appropriateness required under Chapter P, and discussed the \$162,000 that was voted for this project. David recommended that a panel be constituted (that he volunteered to chair) to discuss historically appropriate paint colors so that the AHC could recommend a palette to KG who would take it to the Selectmen to vote on. David also recommended that an historian also be a member of this panel to discuss the historic choice of white for the 1863 Town Hall and review other historic color options such as tan and yellow.
3. BK discussed his attempts to get clarification from the Mass. Historical Commission regarding 40B projects and its role and policy regarding historic property review. David who told us that if state or federal money was used in a 40B project then MHC had to get involved. It was suggested that if we dug deep enough, we would probably find state funding in most 40B applications although it might be labeled differently. It was suggested that Terra Freidrichs might have some knowledge of this. BK expressed his disappointment in the state's response to his letter seeing clarification and David Honn stated his concern that MHC was not accurately representing their actual mandate. He felt that when a demolition is proposed for an historic building for a 40B that the MHC always gets involved. There was a general discussion about the recent inconsistency of MHC responses to 40B applications, and BK stated that he would

pursue the issue with the MHC.

4. KG reviewed the issues associated with the redesign of the Acton Center traffic flow. These issues involve the awkward intersection of Main Street, Newtown Rd. and Concord Rd in which multiple car accidents have occurred due to the lack of clear traffic control, poor visibility, and individuals exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. The HDC would like to see minimal changes to Acton Center but is willing to accept a small electronic display as part of the speed limit sign that specifies drivers' speeds. KG said that Eversource has been contacted to move the utility pole on Concord Rd. for a better sight line onto Main St. It was proposed that the Concord Rd. left turn intersection with Main Street be moved to the horse trough area to reduce turning traffic around Newtown Rd. This would effectively make the horse trough an island.
5. BK updated the group on the Kelly's Corner redesign effort. He stated that the zoning change proposal to enable this re-engineering did not pass at the Town Meeting but that the funding to enable it did. KG reported on a project to get \$12 million from the state for a long term plan, to be executed in several phases. There followed a discussion on why the zoning proposal was defeated while the vote on funding it afterwards passed. It was proposed that a feedback forum of selected residents be undertaken to understand why this was voted down. It is expected that another zoning vote will be held in the future.
6. KG reported no news on the Nagog Treatment Plant proposal by the town of Concord. A hearing on this expanded treatment plant proposal was postponed to July 18, 2016.
7. BK updated the group on the 394 Massachusetts Avenue proposal that was emailed out to members of the Commission. This proposal, to the left of the current CVS, did not pass at the Town Meeting, and thus there is nothing for the Commission to do about it currently. The proposal was seen as an attempt to freeze the zoning for seven years, given the lack of specific plans contained within.
8. BK reviewed the Community Preservation items voted on at the Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Doug Herrick*

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Manager  
Town Library  
Historic District Commission