



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

## ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2015  
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

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

Members of the Public Present: John Sonner, Ken Sonner, Maryann Ashton, Mark Starr, Janice VanDerta, Joe Will

1. BD called the meeting to order, acknowledged the members of the public present, and began working through the agenda items provided by Bill Klauer starting with the plaque program. Brad Maxwell, who was unable to attend, had recommended via email the approval of the two properties under consideration: 266 School St. and 76 Maple St. Vote to approve was unanimous.
2. Bill Dickinson, speaking on behalf of Chip Orcutt, the owner of 34 Elm St., updated the commission on the development of his three-acre parcel, expressing an interest in finding someone who could use or relocate his barn. Otherwise it is set to be demolished.
3. John Sonner, who made an offer on 248 High St. but was outbid by a developer, wanted to understand next steps relative to the demolition delay ordered by the AHC. BD and VB explained that the new owner will be able to demolish the property after the Commission's one-year delay order expires.
4. Mark Starr, owner of 22 Elm St., expressed an interest in withdrawing his demolition permit and instead will submit a new plan for developing his property. This plan will involve tearing down two recent additions to the original structure and adding a more historically appropriate addition. VB reminded him to submit the proposal to Frank Ramsbottom.

5. Maryann Ashton updated the Commission on the Morrison Farm, a property acquired by the town in 2003 for recreation and preservation. Maryann reviewed the work done by Plymouth Archeology, who surveyed the grounds and foundations of the Robbins homestead and icehouse. During their excavation many historic items (pottery shards, flints, buttons, etc.) were found. The Conservation Commission met, approved, and filed with the town and state a proposal for a hiking trail along Icehouse Pond. It is envisioned that the icehouse foundation, to be repaired by masons in the spring, will be used for a picnic area with parking. Historic signs will be installed.
6. VB updated the group on three requests to the Community Preservation Committee for project funding: 2 from the Acton Congregational Church and one from the South Acton Congregational Church. The former requested \$41,000 to stabilize its stained glass window and \$50,000 to develop a master preservation plan for its three buildings. The South Acton Congregational Church is requesting \$15,000 for roof repair.
7. Bill Klauer reported by email on the Community Preservation Act Study Committee, saying that it met with representatives of Acton Community Housing, Historic Preservation, and the Open Space Committee.
8. Acton 2020 Update – VB reported that she had heard nothing from this group.
9. Town Owned Building Plaques: Brad and Bill will report at the next meeting.
10. Acton Center Traffic Study – Nothing to report
11. Annual Report of the AHC – Bill Klauer reported by email that we have until the second week in January to write this report.
12. Posting of Inventory Forms on the Historical Commission Web page. Bill Klauer reported by email that the CD with all entries from the Cultural Resource List is in the hands of the town Information Technology group and they will be posting it on the town web site at some point.
13. Acton Congregational Church Letter of Support for CPC Funding. See item #6 above. Dave Clough is requesting a letter of support from the AHS for funding of these projects. The amount requested is \$46,000 with the ACC paying the balance. Both motions for the letter and the funding were approved unanimously.
14. The meeting minutes for October 14, were reviewed for approval. Questions arose on the wording of section #8 and it was recommended that these minutes be returned to Brad Maxwell for clarification before final approval.
15. The next meeting will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Doug Herrick, Associate Member*

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Manager  
Town Library  
Historic District Commission