



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2018
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

AHC Members Present: Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Jaye (new member), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bill Klauer, Katie Green (KG), BoS Liaison

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
2. As part of Citizen's Concerns, Anne Forbes asked about the work going on with the Wright-Holden House. BD will follow up on the issue.
3. Demolition Application for 4 Piper Lane. BD will set up a walk-through for the board and schedule a public hearing for the next AHC meeting on October 10. As part of this issue, an abutter of the Piper Lane project and Great Hill Recreation Area has asked about historical survey work that has already been done in that area or may be required if the proposed 40-unit development on Piper Lane/90 School Street is approved. KG suggested that the AHC send a comment letter to the Acton Board of Selectmen before their hearing on September 19. The Acton BoS have already sent a letter to Mass Housing.
4. The 8:00 am special hearing on the demolition application for 457 Massachusetts Avenue was convened with the owners and some neighbors present. The owners stated that they applied for the demo permit to keep their options open in preparation to downsize and sell the property. The discussion among neighbors and interested parties was universally negative regarding the possible destruction of this historically significant property on the Cultural Resource List. The Board voted unanimously to impose a demolition delay on 457 Massachusetts Avenue.
5. BM was not present to update the proposed changes to the Chapter N Demolition Delay By-Law reviewed by town counsel and other town staff. At this point it was agreed to finalize the proposal and submit the changes for the warrant for the December Town Meeting. BD will

come before the BoS beforehand.

6. All historical markers/plaques were delivered for the three public buildings and placements were agreed on. It is hoped they will soon be installed. A historic marker request for 311 Central Street by Jonathan Teele was approved.
7. BD will represent the AHC for an initiative by the Acton Volunteer Coordination Committee to publicize the need for additional volunteers on town committees. He will work with the local cable channel to film a short promotional spot.
8. The Powder Mill Place development was discussed. The only building on the CRL that would be affected is the stable for horses used for the trolleys. BD will write up the discussion comments recommending preserving and integrating this building as a clubhouse or other function into the overall plans.
9. The letter to the 53 River Street Master Planning Committee letter was sent by BD.
10. The latest draft of an RFP was discussed for additional site and building surveys of historic buildings on the Acton Cultural Resource List not found in MACRIS to be funded with 2019 CPC funds. KG will send the RFP to the new Town Manager to review. It will then be sent out with a September 15 submission deadline for responding vendors. This will enable the proposal to be finalized and submitted to the CPC before their deadline in November.
11. A new AHC volunteer, Jayne, attended the meeting and expressed interest in a permanent position on the board.
12. The July AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Historic District Commission