



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2018
8:00 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

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

1. BD called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm. There were no citizen concerns.
2. There were no reported projects from the Zoning Board of Appeals involving properties on the Cultural Resource List
3. DH reported on his first draft of an RFP 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. Suggested edits and changes will be made before the next meeting. The next version of the RFP will be discussed, submitted by the Town Manager, reviewed by Town Counsel (by sending a copy to KG for forwarding), approved, and sent out by July with an August 15 submission deadline for responding vendors. This will enable the proposal to be finalized and submitted to the CPC before their deadline in November.
4. Brad provided an historic plaque update, saying that the application fees for sites in Historic Districts would be waived. BK is working on the plaque for the Hearse House in Forest Lawn Cemetery and BM is overseeing the plaque for Town Hall.
5. The AHC discussed feedback from Frank Ramsbottom and Selby on proposed changes to the Demolition Delay By-Law (Chapter N). It was agreed to more clearly define what constitutes demolition so as to avoid needing to review applications for maintenance, repairs (non-irreparable), and in-place replacement of existing exterior elements that do not alter the footprint or affect more than 25% of a single façade. It was agreed to schedule a public forum for these Chapter N changes in June and July. A final version will be agreed on at the AHC meeting in

August before getting it on the Town Meeting Warrant in September.

6. DH brought up the issue on behalf of the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail of the incorrect granite marker at Concord Rd. (The issue has since been resolved).
7. KG discussed the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court ruling on the use of CPC funds for religious organizations generally and the Acton Congregational church specifically. Now that the SJC has sent the issue back to superior court, the Town is discussing next steps for managing future costs (\$250k spent so far), such as setting up a legal defense fund. Given the legal expenses it is possible the church may rescind its application for funding the windows repairs while it pursues funding for its master plan.
8. BK reviewed the feedback from that evening's presentation on the future use of 53 River Street saying that the preference from the participants was to use the site for historic preservation and conservation purposes.
9. The April AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
 Town Manager
 Historic District Commission