



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2018
7:00 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

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

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. One of his first announcements was that the AHC would begin meeting at 7:30 pm starting in April. In addition, Warren Richmond and Raoul Smith tendered their resignations as Board members. They will be instructed to inform the Town Clerk of their intentions. DH agreed to ask the Acton Historical Society to include in their upcoming newsletter the availability of AHC board positions in case any of their members were interested.
2. For Citizens' Concerns, Anne Forbes raised the issue of the Maple Street lumber company possibly using its site for South Acton railroad station parking. This property is not in the South Acton Historical District but nevertheless contains historic buildings. She advised the commission to keep an eye on this issue since the lumber company owner has contacted the Town.
3. A discussion followed on the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court ruling on the use of CPC funds for religious organizations generally and the Acton Congregational church specifically. The ruling expressed concerns and was a partial rejection of this use but the court remanded the issue back for review. It is not clear what the next steps are, but because the town has already spent \$250k in legal costs, there is an effort underway to get other towns to financially support the appeal.
4. BK reported by email that there were no work applications on the Zoning Board of Appeals web site that involved historic properties on the Cultural Resource List (CRL).

5. BK also reported by email that he had not found an example of an RFP that we could use to update the MACRIS file with site surveys of historic buildings on the Acton CRL not found in MACRIS. It was agreed that DH would research and find other towns' RFPs for these site surveys, develop an Acton RFP by May, solicit bids in July, and prepare a CPC proposal for funding in September. Anne Forbes mentioned the need to correct listings and street addresses in MACRIS, providing the example of Jones Tavern that was listed as 128 South Main St. There is no South Main Street in Acton. It was agreed to look into the process for updating MACRIS.
6. Brad provided an historic plaque update, saying that the application fees for sites in Historic Districts would be waived. Examples include the Town Hall and the West Acton Firehouse. Other requests for plaques include the Hearse House in Forest Lawn Cemetery and other residences. A discussion followed about using the water bill/tax bill quarterly newsletters to promote the availability of plaques.
7. The AHC reviewed and approved the changes and updates to the Demolition Delay By-Law provided by the lawyers. KG will set up a meeting with the AHC and the Town Counsel (Kevin) to finalize the new bylaw in April/May. We will then schedule a series of public forums for citizen review 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. It was agreed to set up a working group to move this effort forward consisting of BD and BM. They will work with Frank Ramsbottom and Selby.
8. The Kelly's Corner Section 106 response letter was reviewed and approved.
9. The Phase 2 deliverables for the Forest Cemetery National Register project were reviewed and approved.
10. The March AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Historic District Commission