

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019
7:30 pm
Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Jaye Oman (JO), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Brad Maxwell (BM), Bill Klauer (BK)

Absent: David Martin (BoS Liaison), Bob Ferrara (BF)

1. Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the AHC's October 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 6-0.
- 2) Citizen Concerns: Anne Forbes expressed concerns about the lack of credit given the AHC at the ceremony for the North Acton Cemetery National Register status. She felt that the ceremony itself highlighted groups and individuals not involved, and was concerned that the Beacon did not publish her letter to that effect after the editor contacted the Town Manager. She also was concerned that the Morrison farmhouse was being prepared for demolition. Bill Klauer suggested that the Caroll Spinney (Big Bird) house might be a candidate for National Register status given the fame of Mr. Spinney.
- 3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL: DH stated that he had reviewed the meeting agendas and hearings of the ZBA and did not recognize any historic properties for review.
- 4) PAL Associates – CRL to MACRIS Update: JO updated the group on the communications and work-to-date with our contractor for this CPC project, Public Archaeological Lab (PAL). We received new and updated inventory forms to review and get back to them with comments.
- 5) Bridge Project between Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and TTT: BD is continuing to socialize the idea of linking the Trail-Through-Time with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail by spanning the Nashoba Brook with a bridge on the old Davis Road. He has discussed

this with a structural engineer and will report back on a wood frame, expendable bridge. Needs to do pricing.

- 6) Archaeological By-Law: This topic will be addressed when Bob Ferrara can participate.
- 7) 90 School Street Request to Walk Land Update: No response from landowner
- 8) MACRIS Inventory Numbers on Assessment Property Cards: JO will follow through on this after the CRL to MACRIS project is complete.

3. New/Special Business

- 1) Review Discovery Museum Demolition Proposal. Representatives from the Discovery Museum proposed demolishing a historic building on their campus for visitor parking and solar panels. The AHC was informally polled and expressed unanimous support for preserving the building. The demolition delay was explained to the Discovery Museum representatives along with our willingness to work with them to find alternatives to their parking goal without losing this CRL building.
- 2) CPC Letter of Support for Isaac Davis Monument: It was agreed to issue this letter of support.
- 3) CPC Letter of Support for Library Chimney Restoration: It was agreed to issue this letter of support.
- 4) Historical Marker Application 14 Maple Street: It was agreed to support this application for a marker for the Tuttle-Hanley house and BM will follow-up.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment: At 9:05 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of October 2019