



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021
7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Bill Dickinson (BD) (Chair), Bob Ferrara (BF), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Klauer (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Alissa Nicol (AN), Fran Arsenault (FA) - (Select Board Liaison)

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. Opening

Chair William Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. and read the procedures and agreed-on policies the Town developed for these web-based Zoom meetings. Now that the Mass. Legislature has extended the open meeting pandemic rules about using Zoom vs. in-person meetings, the AHC will continue with Zoom meetings indefinitely until there is consensus about returning to in-person meetings.

2. Regular Business

- 1) **Approval of July Minutes** – Meeting minutes from the AHC's July meeting were reviewed and were approved unanimously by a vote of 6-0.
- 2) **Citizen Concerns:** None
- 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 activities affecting buildings on the Cultural Resource List or MACRIS.
- 4) **Bridge Project between Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and TTT:** Nothing to report while we wait for the approval letter from the CPC.
- 5) **Archaeological By-Law Update:** BF stated that Town Counsel is still reviewing the latest draft and that he and Kristin Guichard are continuing to socialize and discuss the by-law with other town departments and committees.



- 6) **53 River Street Update:** Two guests from the 53 River Street Planning Committee were in attendance: Chair David Martin and Lou York. BD updated the group on the 53 River Street Planning Committee meeting on August 10 that he, BK, and DH attended. David Martin briefed the Commission on changes to the town's 60% design that proposed a breach of the dam instead of full removal of the masonry between the abutments. The group felt that this was an improvement over the previous design but still opposes filling the historic raceway. The AHC looks forward to working with the HDC, the MHC, Army Corps of Engineers, the town, and other parties who will participate in drafting the Memo of Agreement defining the final project proposal as part of the Section 106 historic review.

DH briefly reviewed a draft of a letter from the AHC to the MHC responding to MHC's review of the Gray and Pape summary of their historical site investigation. The AHC stated in their letter that they concur with the MHC's findings that the site qualifies for National Register of Historic Places status; that the town's current 60% plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of this historic site; and that the Army Corps of Engineers (the federal agency) concur with the MHC's findings. One edit was suggested, and it was agreed to send the letter to the MHC.

- 7) **Status of Converting CRL to MACRIS:** No update. We are continuing to wait for the posting of the new edits to the Acton properties on MACRIS by MHC.

3. New/Special Business

1. **Iron Work Farm CPA Review:** As part of the IWF CPA grant to renovate the window sashes in the Faulkner Homestead and the Jones Tavern, a final sign-off from a historic consultant on the quality of the work performed and its compliance with historic standards is required. Victoria Beyer of the AHC will provide that assessment.

4. Consent Items - None

5. **Adjournment:** At 9:11 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 July 2021