



Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

08/10/2021

7:00 PM

Online, Town Hall, 472 Main St, Acton, MA 01720

Present: David Honn (DH), Ron Regan (RR), Zach Taillefer (ZT), Fran Arsenault (FA) BOS liaison, David Shoemaker (DS).

Absent: Art Leavens (AL), Anita Rogers (AR)

1. Opening;

Chair David Honn opened the meeting at 7:04 pm and read the “remote meeting notice” due to COVID-19.

2. Regular Business

- A. Citizen's Concerns – none. Leo Fochtman and Renee Robins present for the meeting until the state of 16 Mead was made clear.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes – DS makes a motion to approve the minutes from July 13 and 27, RR second, DH takes a roll call vote: RR – Y, DS – Y, DH – Y, ZT – Y; the motion passes 4-0.
- C. Review Project Tracking Spreadsheet – Up to date. No mail of importance. 525 now done. Will send a copy to Dawn.

3. New/Special Business [or other applicable agenda items]

- A. 7:09 Continued Public Hearing: from 7.27.21: #2116 16 Mead Terrace New Dwelling. DH: At the request of Mark Gallagher, we will continue the public hearing to our next meeting which will be 14 September (the last meeting in August is routinely canceled due to vacation absences in the Committee); Mark Gallagher will be informed. Per the bylaw, the HDC has 60 days from the receipt of an application to render a decision. The 16 Mead application was stamped by the Town Clerk on 6/25. We have jointly previously agreed to a two-week extension which pushed out the decision date from 8/24 to 9/7. A continuance always leads to a matching shift in the date by which decisions must be made. With this latest request the decision date would be 9/21 unless extended further. DH will send MG an HDC continuance form. No other applications have been received.
- B. 8:45pm, Retaining Wall Demolition (pending application): No application received.

4. Miscellaneous HDC Business



- A. House Proposed Outdoor Space at Town Hall. DH asks for an update when possible from the Select Board.
- B. Asa Parlin House: FA indicates that this is in the short-term plan for this year for the Select Board. DH asks that the Select Board come to the HDC before anything is decided to save time and money that will not be consistent with the HDC perspective.
- C. 53 River Street: A meeting in parallel with the HDC meeting; anticipate a request for demolition when timely.
- D. Christian Science Building Support Letter to SB (Select Board): DH was contacted by Dan Barton (architect for 10 River St). Engaged by Mark Foster, owner of parking lots and the Christian Science Building. DH and AR met with MF for some initial discussion; no plans have been made to date. The concept is to demolish the Christian Science building; this clearly will need discussion and a visit by HDC members. That building is in rough shape updated without consideration of the historical value. The granite foundation is of value. There is a garage in very good condition, and DH and AR expressed the opinion that a good use for the garage be made.
- E. #2109 9 School Street: Support letter to SB (Select Board). The applicant needed a special permit to the SB; zoning for more than 4-family buildings requires this. HDC Chair proposes like to send a letter that confirms that the current plan is acceptable to the HDC and consistent with its vote. HDC can encourage the DRB (Design Review Board) to note that the back side of the building is quite visible, and the landscaping could also be of interest. HDC members were supportive of this initiative.
DH notes that we are expecting to hear that the heat pump is moved to a suitable location and to show a mockup of a window for consistency with the HDC wishes.

5. Adjournment

At 21:41, RR makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, DS seconds. DH takes a roll call vote: DS – Y, RR – Y, ZT – Y, DH – Y, the motion passes 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- None