



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes April 11, 2024, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

Guests: Anne Forbes (AF); Michaela Moran (MM)

Absent: none

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from February 14 – BK moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting. BD seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents' concerns – AF and MM expressed concerns about the warrant articles at Town Meeting on South Acton Village and MBTA zoning requirements. Much discussion ensued.

MM would like consideration of new town-wide bylaw authorizing demolition for neglected properties. BR had done some prior research on this.

3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL? – None

4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road - no update.

5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures) – BR began visiting sites over the last few months where a barn is part of the CRL property listing but is not clearly identified on MACRIS listing. She noted several are attached barns. She confirmed with Building Commissioner that an attached barn would be considered as a wing of the house. reno, as well as a few older barns not on the CRL list.

6. Under demo delay: none.

7. Historical Plaque Applications: no new applications. BR showed a new plaque that the Acton Women's Club did not like. HC members concurred that they did not like it either. BR will send it back to the vendor with suggestions.

8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update: VB noted that the CPC received many historic requests this cycle, including a large one for 53 River Street. The HC request of \$14K for the National Register application is included in the warrant. Repainting the Hosmer House was deferred to next year.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update - BD is still trying to meet with Town officials to discuss a proposal for this 4th Historic District. This meeting has been delayed due to the departure of Mike Gendron.

10. Acton 250 Committee update – BK reported that Acton 250 momentum continues to be very positive. The most recent talk by historian John L. Bell was very well received. Amy Cole's Acton Center tours have been oversubscribed for April 6 and April 12. A variety of Acton 250 merchandise is now becoming available. The Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250> is a good source of information.

11. Archeological By-Law (sensitivity maps) – BD showed BR how to log in to the non-public special GIS account to special Pre and Post-Contact archaeological sites. It was agreed that the 123 Quarry Road application (see below) is looking to be the first test case of the bylaw.

II. New/Special Business

- 1. Discuss subdivision at 123 Quarry Road – John Oliver Farm** – After reviewing the plan, it appears that this subdivision is in an archaeologically sensitive area and exceeds the trigger area amount. BD will write the Planning Department to request an Archaeological Protection Permit Application from the developer.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BD seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:25 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of February 14, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission