

Acton Historic District Commission
Meeting minutes, 3/17/08



David Honn, Anne Forbes, Ellie Halsey, Scott Kutil, Tom Peterman in attendance. AF called the meeting to order. Brian Bendig, Kathy Acerbo-Bachman, Michaela Moran, and Terra Friedrichs joined the meeting from the BOS meeting at 7:50pm.

Minutes from the 3/3/08 meeting were approved as corrected.

Certificates issued since the last meeting: #0739 – 273-275 (271-277) Central St. (partial-for sign and vents); #0726, amendment - 276 Arlington St., change deck railing design.

Glenn Berger contacted AF about repairs for the 129 Main St. porch roof. The items mentioned are simple repairs. CNA issued on request by telephone to the Building Department.

#0739-Motion by BB to deny portion of application for the windows at 271-277 Central St. without prejudice since the information on the windows has not been forthcoming. Motion seconded by DH. Carried unanimously.

BB met with the new town manager, Steve Ledoux, on 3/4. BB introduced Mr. Ledoux to the importance of historic preservation in Acton, as epitomized by the three historic districts created by the town nearly 20 years ago. BB also emphasized the importance of preservation to the town by recalling the special town meeting in which the East Acton station masters house was rezoned so that it could be preserved. It was a good introductory meeting.

Members reported on the Historical Commission meeting on demolition of two houses on the cultural resources list at 230/232 Arlington Street, just outside the WAHD. The developers brought only a conceptual plan and continually mentioned that they did not want to be held to any particular plan.

AF reported on 15 Mass . Ave.(Route 2), the state-owned Wright-Holden farmhouse, which was discussed at the HC meeting as well. An ad hoc group is being organized to attempt to preserve the c. 1830s house. The group will include members of the HC and Carol Dwyer of Concord. AF will participate as a member of Preservation Mass's Regional Advisory Council, and will keep the HDC informed. A meeting with Jim Igoe, President of Preservation Mass, has been scheduled for 3/18.

8PM App.#0801-West Acton veterans memorial signage-Harry Tinseth. Did not appear. Dean Charter commented that the town will cooperate in placing the sign in the small square in W. Acton village.

8:30PM App. #0802 West Acton Citizens Library. Dean Charter, Jennifer Friedman, The door proposed for the shed (Pearl St. entry) is the two panel door presently on the rear of the building, opening into the shed. Plans now are to repair the door. The door

inside the archway, not visible from Windsor Ave., will be an exterior door with two additional panels applied to mimic the original interior door. BB moved to approve the remaining items of the application, KAB seconded, motion carried unanimously.

BB asked DC re 17 Woodbury Lane. DC said he toured the new Town Manager through the building last week. The roof repairs are holding, DC reported.

81 River-nothing has been done to respond to the concern re access fencing, nor has the structural report been provided. Other questions: what are they doing re the three single family homes.

77 Nagog Hill Rd. septic system design review. MM recused herself. BB to contact purchaser with concerns, issues, requests.

Town Meeting (begins 4/7) -- various items of interest to the preservation constituency were discussed: Cell tower bylaw-The planning board cannot waive the 500 foot buffer zone around a cell tower in the rewritten by law which will come to town meeting in April, 2008. BB proposed that the moratorium be extended so that the bylaw can be revised to provide greater protection for the historic resources of the town. It was noted that any amendment to the proposed bylaws should be noticed to Mr. MacKenzie, the town moderator prior to town meeting. CPA articles including the Exchange Hall. A straw vote of the HDC indicates a split of support for the article. In a related comment, TP pointed out that the HDC has no written demolition-by-neglect policy, which might be considered as an addition to the HDC Rules and Regulations when they are next revised.

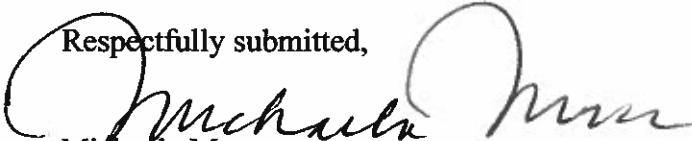
Violations: 288 Central St. – sign for office space available went on building about 3/15/08.

AF will update the contact list and send it to the members for review. Then it will be sent to IT so it can be posted on the website.

102 Main St. Getsicks' window replacement. The case against the burglars was thrown out due to a technicality. Thus the criminal restitution the Geticks sought is not available to them. The current HDC extension (through July) on the application will be the last, however.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Michaela Moran,
Secretary