

Acton Historical Commission
Special Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2014
7:00 p.m. site visit; 8:00 p.m. meeting
Acton Town Hall, Rm. 121

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer (BK), Bill Dickinson (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. As scheduled, members of the Commission met with the property owner for 7 Great Road at 7:00 p.m. and conducted a thorough site visit of the structure and surrounding area. The Commission then temporarily adjourned its meeting until 8:00 p.m.
2. The Commission resumed its meeting at Town Hall at 8:00 p.m. Among factors considered, the Commission noted that the house is in fine condition and has a nice granite retaining wall at street level, the building is attractive and matches the streetscape with other buildings of similar design and vintage, and preserving the structure would not materially hurt a landowner's ability to develop the property.
3. After discussion, the Commission unanimously determined that the antique residential structure at 7 Great Road is a preferably preserved significant building under Chapter N of the Town's Bylaws, and therefore we are required to impose a demolition delay for a period of one (1) year from the date of this determination, pursuant to Chapter N. This building, along with the two conjoined, period buildings next door and the ones directly across the street, contribute to and typify the historical and cultural East Acton Village streetscape coming into Acton from Concord on Great Road. Without a concrete plan, at this time, for redevelopment of the parcels at 7-9 Great Road, the Commission is unwilling to approve the demolition of this historical resource. However, the Commission is willing to work with a developer that is interested in redeveloping these lots, with or without adjacent historical buildings, in a sensible and sensitive way that will preserve or reuse the significant building(s) thereon. The Commission imposes no such delay on any structures situated at 7 or 9 Great Road other than the antique residential structure noted above. BK will write to the Building Department and inform the applicant, too.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brad Maxwell, clerk*

cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library
Historic District Commission

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