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Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes February 23, 2010

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. David Honn (DH), Scott Kutil (SK), Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann, Michaela Moran (MM), David Barrat (DB), and Terra Friedrichs (TF) were in attendance. Maya Minkin was absent. Ron Rose was present as a prospective HDC member. The meeting was held in Room 121 in Town Hall.

There were no Citizen's Concerns.

The January 26th, 2010 Minutes were approved as corrected.

KAB said that she is sending a flyer and a letter about the upcoming Window Seminar to every property owner in the Historic Districts.

DB will be the liaison for 65 River St. DB asked if the proposed work for 65 River St. is a replacement in kind. MM said no because the replacement door and steps are different than the old door and steps.

MM said that she is the liaison for the West Acton Village sign violations and that she would be sending letters to Graphic Connections and Sweet Bites. She passed out copies of these letters to the commission and asked for comments. SK and DB mentioned that there were additional sign violations at Beacon West Employment Agency and WendyO Salon.

MM said that she was informed that there will be an application for repairs to the dam at Ericson's Mill in South Acton. She said that dam is in the district and is visible from Main St. and therefore the proposed repairs are in our jurisdiction. MM visited the dam site where she was told that the State of Massachusetts requires that the dam be repaired. The owners said that their proposal to strengthen the dam with additional stone is more cost effective than building a new dam. MM asked she had asked Anne Forbes if the owners might obtain CPC funds to rebuild the existing dam and Anne said that would require them to follow the Secretary of Interiors standards on rehabilitation.

At 8:10 p.m. we had an appointment on application #1004, an application to replace the front door and steps at 65 River St. DH and KAB were recused since they are abutters and TF was appointed to vote. Jessica Dissiny and Robert Ganong were present to explain their application. They said that they were replacing the front door with a door that has more of a period look and they are planning to use an antique mortise lockset on the new door. TF motioned that we approve the application as submitted with all the materials, pending abutter notification, and with the finding that the new door and hardware is appropriate to the house. MM seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:30 p.m. the meeting was moved to Room 126 to view Chris Shaffner's presentation on the Stretch Code. After the presentation, the meeting was moved back to Rm. 121.

At 9:10 p.m. we began to review the latest WAVE plans that have been submitted for the special permitting process. Anne Sussman and Celia Kent also joined the meeting at this point as members of the public. MM said that according to Michael Rosenfeld there have been a few changes since we reviewed the plans last spring: the handicapped ramp was removed and they added clerestory windows on the building in the rear. Ron Rose said that because zoning can be interpreted we might tell the BOS that this building does not conform to the zoning regulations. Anne Sussman and Celia Kent urged the Commission to be faithful to the bylaw (Chapter P). MM pointed out the Commission's partial and conditional approval, given in the spring of 2009, will expire after one year. MM said that we did not get the opinion from Town Counsel regarding massing until after the partial approval of the WAVE application in the spring. KAB asked if we should publish the HDC comments in the Beacon and MM said no. MM said that she would collect everyone's thoughts via email in preparation for a special meeting that she would schedule for this coming Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.