



53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

7:00 PM

ACTON RECREATION CENTER, 50 AUDUBON DRIVE

Present: Peter Berry, Bill Klauer, Stephanie Krantz, Peter Hocknell, Lou York, Bill Alesbury, Don Boyle, Bettina Abe (Staff).

Absent: Matthew 'Selby' (Staff).

1. Opening

Chair Peter Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. A quorum is present.

B. Fun Fact: Bill Klauer discussed the history of 40 School Street in South Acton. The well structure in the front yard was used as a fishpond of sorts. Eventually the property was willed to the Town of Acton, sold, and then the proceeds used for the Robbins fund.

C. The Town Manager wishes the 53 River Street Committee to submit a CPA application to provide funding to remove the dam. The application deadline is November 18. Even if the site qualifies for state or federal funding, it is likely that would come in the form of reimbursement rather than upfront funding. Bill Alesbury asked whether CPC funding is appropriate for dam removal purposes. Debate ensued to look at this question from both sides. Consensus came in the form of submitting an application with a placeholder for the funding section that will be filled in once the Milone & MacBroom (MMI) report recommendations have been received. Based on the Cultural Resources Assessment prepared by the Public Archeology Laboratory (PAL), this committee will not request additional CPC funds at this time. Peter Berry will work with Selby to prepare the CPC application.

D. Citizens' concerns: It was suggested that the dam breach could be considered as just "step 1" as part of the overall site improvement. It was also confirmed that housing will not be pursued at this site. A concern was raised regarding any potential impacts of dam removal on the embankment abutting the MBTA commuter rail and whether it was appropriate to contact the MBTA at this time. After discussion, the committee felt it



appropriate to communicate once a plan was developed; consistent with alerting property abutters to any future development activities. A citizen indicated another piece of the site's wooden perimeter fence has fallen. Peter Berry will communicate this to Selby.

- E. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the October 1, 2019 Meeting: Motion to accept the minutes, without amendment, was made by Bill Klauer and seconded by Don Boyle. Approval by voice vote was unanimous.
- F. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 5. Moving to a Thursday was necessitated to accommodate committee members' schedules. This also allows time for receipt of the MMI final dam assessment report (due December 1), as well as time for the committee to review the report in detail prior to our next meeting.
- G. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm made by Don Boyle and seconded by Bill Klauer. Approval by voice vote was unanimous.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for November 5, 2019
- Draft minutes from the October 1, 2019 committee meeting
- Public Archeology Laboratory Cultural Resources Assessment (dated October 18, 2019)