



MASSACHUSETTS 01720

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2018
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Room 126

AHC Members Present: Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Jaye Oman (JO), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bill Klauer (BK), Katie Greene (KG) – BoS Liaison

1. BD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. DH provided an update on the CRL/MACRIS grant proposal to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and the 50% matching funds proposal to the Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Dept. There was only one response to the RFP for conducting the site surveys for this project - the Public Archaeological Laboratory (PAL). BD agreed to contact PAL to start negotiating down the final price. After receiving a request from the CPC to give a presentation on this project, DH and BK attended their meeting and provided an overview of the reasoning behind and need for this effort to retire the Acton Cultural Resource List in favor of the state-sponsored MACRIS historical resources repository.
3. Kristen Guichard of the Acton Planning Department reviewed the most recent Kelley's Corner design proposals for the Hosmer House frontage taking. This was a follow-up to the Section 106 historical risk assessment process underway with the MHC and the MassDOT Cultural Resources Unit following input from the AHC and the Acton Historical Society (AHS). She presented several design options for the Hosmer House frontage and the strip mall parking area across the street. For the latter, she reviewed a plan to create a retaining wall in front of the parking area which would create a 4.5 foot planting area to enable the planting of trees – a recommendation of the Kelley's Corner Committee. This was agreed to as the best option once the roadway engineers had ruled out moving the arc and footprint of the road itself.

After reviewing and discussing at length the four options for the Hosmer House frontage, the Commission focused on two options: the “MassDOT Full Slope” and the “Dale Design Short

Wall with Partial Slope". The Commission then held a vote in favor the "MassDOT Full Slope". BD agreed to write a letter to the MHC stating that this option would not present adverse effects to the historical integrity of the Hosmer House. BD and DH stated that they would present the options at the next Board meeting of the Acton Historical Society and hold a similar vote.

4. For Citizen's Concerns, Anne Forbes had some questions about the type of inventory forms to be used for the 53 River Street historical assessment. It was agreed to proceed with an area form given the more comprehensive nature of this format to go beyond just buildings in documenting the history, ruins, and mill remnants of this site. BK and Anne will coordinate the survey work to be conducted by PAL
5. BK reported no additional ZBA/Planning projects appearing on their web site for properties on the Cultural Resource List.
6. BM was not in attendance to provide an update on the proposed changes to the Chapter N Demolition Delay By-Law reviewed by town counsel and other town staff. At this point it was agreed that BM would send a clean final version to KG who would run it by the Town Manager for his input, finalize the community outreach to create support, and get it on the warrant for the April 1, 2019 Town Meeting.
7. The November AHC Minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Herrick

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Historic District Commission