



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Alissa Nicol - Clerk (AN), Victoria Beyer (VB), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA), Barb Rhines (BR)

Guests: Anne Forbes (AF), Jim Waltenspiel and Ellen Feinsand, Patrick Hearn (PH) - Agricultural Commission, Joe Will

Absent:

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

I. Regular Business

1) Review of meeting minutes from December 14th – Meeting minutes from the AHC's December 14th meeting were reviewed; BK moved and BF seconded a motion to approve the minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

2) Citizen concerns: homeowners from 7 Knowlton Drive, Jim Waltenspiel and Ellen Feinsand, are interested in learning about restrictions on CRL home for expected future renovations; BD explained what is and isn't under the jurisdiction of AHC; front porch removal is considered significant architectural feature, or 1/4 of facade, and would come under AHC jurisdiction; encouraged owners to come to meeting to show plans (photos, drawings, etc.) for possible pre-approval, Bldg Dept would flag for review when applying for Building Permit, no jurisdiction over HVAC, solar, etc.

3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?: 247 Pope Road parcel disturbance does not meet minimum square footage, in Moderate Sensitivity Area

4) Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road update: no update, by next meeting, BD's goal to find landscape architect and structural engineer

5) Archaeological By-Law implementation Update: BF noted that bylaw is official now, Attorney General required a handful of changes, incorporated by Town Counsel; BR drafted rules, regulations, and application form, but has not been reviewed by Planning Director; commissioners will review this at next meeting; BF noted that Friends of Pine Hawk would like to invite Duncan Ritchie (created sensitivity maps in 2008) up this spring to speak the process of developing the maps, and this event could provide opportunity for outreach to public re: bylaw

6) 53 River Street Update - BD wrote a letter to Army Corp of Engineers and MHC to convey AHC supports Memorandum of Understanding

7) Status of converting CRL to MACRIS - BR has suggested that Planning Dept hire a summer intern to devote time to this reconciliation project; BD asked how many properties unresolved, BR estimates 50-100

8) Demo Delay status: 27 Martin Street - no update; AF noted that 457 Mass Ave has been sold, and demo delay would be renewed for new owner; BR noted that 149 Central demo application has come in, will be added to next agenda

9) Historical Marker Requests: BR noted that 140 River Street and 7 Pope Road approved applications are with sign maker; BR received query from 95 Main Street about requesting marker; new application received for 48 School Street, commissioners in agreement to approve, BD moves to approve marker, VB seconds, motion passes unanimously, BR will send approved application with sign location marked on photo to HDC for Certificate of Non-applicability approval

II. New/Special Business

1) CPC application for Robbins Parcel addition to Woodlawn Cemetery form - application was not completed for submission this year, but possibility for next year; AF noted that consultant needs to be hired for National Register nomination research, first need to contact MHC staff (Ben Haley is National Register Director) for eligibility opinion, commissioners reviewed 2009 form for cemetery (Acton 802) notes eligibility for National Register with extra information requested; BK will begin process by contacting MHC, ask about adding 929 and 930 (marker and stone)

2) Agricultural Commission to discuss Morrison Farm - PH presented refined proposal for creation of CR for the property to protect buildings, community gardens, meadows, trails and forests; draft of CR (author Pete Westover) includes restriction of buildings to current use, will be sealed and dehumidified to extend life; noted the potential for Concord Road Historic Corridor placement on National Register; plan for a Public Forum after approval of proposal by Select Board, asking for support of HC; commissioners are generally supportive, but would like to review CR before formal letter crafted and are opposed to restrictions on future use, flexibility is desired

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment

VB moved and BD seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9: 52 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

December 14th, 2022 minutes, Historic Marker application for 48 School Street, MACRIS Area Form for Woodlawn Cemetery, “Acton Ag Comm Briefing to HDC & AHC Regarding Morrison Farm CR 10-11 Jan 2023”