



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes August 9, 2023, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB) Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

Guests: Karen O'Neil - Open Space chair (KO), Susan Mitchell-Hardt - Acton Conservation Trust (SM), Anne Forbes (AF), Ken Dow (KD)

Absent: none

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from July 12 - BK moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting and VB seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents concerns – SM and KO discussed the interest in the Town acquiring the former Clement Mortitz property and asked if there might be some historical value, given the World War II antenna arrays on the property. Clement's daughter Natalie Delorie is now the owner. BF offered to contact former Draper Labs chief Jim Shields of Concord to ask historical importance. BK noted there might be other historic items since the Tom Wheeler house is nearby. BD offered to write a letter of support.

AF asked that the HC write a support letter stating that that Jones Tavern restoration project meets the Secretary of Interior standards, so Iron Work farm can receive the final CPC payment on this project, which was approved by the CPC in 2021.

BR noted that a building permit was received for 46 Willow Street. The sketches indicated that more than 25% of the rear facing façade would be altered. In this case, a hearing will be required. BR will thus seek to have a hearing notice for the next HC meeting on Sept 13 and ensure all relevant parties are notified.

3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL? – none reported.

4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road - no update

5. Status of converting CRL to MACRIS - BR noted that Marabella, the high school intern, is plowing through the “blessed list” noting discrepancies between the CRL and MACRIS. The goal is to have the CRL into MACRIS agree. After all information is moved, the CRL can be eliminated.

6. Under demo delay: 27 Martin St – BF emailed Kim Amaral, the owner of 27 Martin Street, on July 17. Kim noted she was meeting with the architect at the end of the month, but did not have anything else to share at the moment. This case began with a hearing at the May 11, 2022, meeting.

7. Historical Plaque Applications: 508 Main St. 308 High St. The 508 Main St application has not been received yet. The 308 High St. application should be corrected from “American Powder Mills” to “American Powder Company – Saltpeter Building c 1870”.

8. National Register application for Woodlawn Cemetery: BR will investigate applying for an MHC grant for funding for a Cultural Resource Management firm to prepare this application. BF was asked to get an estimate from Holly Herbster of PAL, Inc.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update. From the last HC meeting, the HC consensus was that the HC should pursue this. BD is planning to attend the August 22 HDC meeting to see if they agree. If so, HC will get to work on the proposal for a fourth Historic District.

10. Acton 250 Committee update – BF reported that Bob Allison of Suffolk University will be the first of the 250 Committee Speaker Series on September 21 in Room 204. There are also plans to a 250-related every two weeks in Action Unlimited and other local media starting in late August.

11. Archeological By-Law implementation - BR forwarded a list of 3 local Cultural Resource Management (CRM) consultants for the Town Planning Department to include on the vendor list to perform the initial archaeological assessments mentioned in the archaeology bylaw. One vendor failed to include some information and BF and BR will follow up. These consultants – as well as others that may be added in the future - will be on call for these quick-turnaround assessments called for the new bylaw,

II. New/Special Business

- 1. Looking for New Members** - Ken Dow attended and expressed interest in becoming a member.
- 2. 2020 Strategic Plan.** BD will respond to Kayla Sauer of the Planning Department on a variety issues/milestones noted Acton’s 2020 Strategic Plan.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment; VB moved and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:27 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

July 12, 2023, minutes