



## ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes December 13th, 2023, 7:30 pm

**Town Hall, Room 126**

**Present:** Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

**Guests:** Anne Forbes, Pat and Jay Rashburn, Adria Osborne, Chris Chan-Tse, David Banforth, Lydia Higgins, Elise Stone

**Absent:** Bill Klauer (BK), Bob Ferrara (BF)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

### I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes from November 8th** – BD moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting with corrections per VB. VB seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Residents' concerns** – Anne Forbes noted that Concord is looking to establish an archaeological by-law and may reach out to us.
- 3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – 40 High Street, see below
- 4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road** - no update.
- 5. Status of converting CRL to MACRIS** – BR working to resolve a discrepancy between MACRIS and CRL where a barn is part of the CRL property listing but is not clearly identified on MACRIS listing.
- 6. Under demo delay: 27 Martin St** – Demo delay has expired.
- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** the owners of **328 Pope Rd** have approved the suggested larger sign and cost. Manufacture of the sign has commenced.

**8. National Register application & CPC Application for Woodlawn Cemetery:** The CPC funding application has been submitted. BD will present the project to the CPC on 1/23/24.

**9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update -** BD plans to meet with Cory York and Mike Gendron about the Concord Corridor concept being proposed.

**10. Acton 250 Committee update** –no update

**11. Archeological By-Law implementation** – no update

## **II. New/Special Business - None**

**12. 8:00 Demolition Delay Hearing, 115 River Street** – The Commission reviewed the revised architectural drawings and found the design to be greatly improved from the prior presentation. The commission appreciated that the owner was preserving the house by bringing it up to modern standards and giving it a new life. BD motioned and VB seconded the motion not to impose a demolition delay. The motion passed unanimously, and a demolition delay will not be imposed. BD will send out a letter to the owner and building commissioner.

**13. 8:30 Demolition Delay Hearing, 174 Arlington Street** – The Commission reviewed the architectural drawings for the proposed addition. The commission found the proposed design to be appropriate for the house. BD motioned and VB seconded the motion not to impose a demolition delay. The motion passed unanimously, and a demolition delay will not be imposed. BD will send out a letter to the owner and building commissioner.

**14.** BD noted that a development at 40 High Street was sent out by the Planning Board and that they were requesting comments for a Hearing on 1/16/24. The development plan showed preservation of the existing house on site, which is on the Cultural Resource list. The Commission saw preservation of the house as positive, and BD will send HC's comments to the planning board.

**15.** The commission discussed proposed names for the historical park at 53 River Street and felt that AFs suggested name of "Shoddy Mill Park" was best. The Commission felt that the unique name "Shoddy Mill" would generate curiosity, leading to further exploration by Acton residents and expanding the town's general knowledge regarding the historical mills in Acton.

**16.** BR updated the commissions website to provide easier navigation for end users.

## **III. Consent Items - None**

**Adjournment:** BD moved, and VB seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 8:58 PM.

### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.**

1. Architectural documents for 115 River Street, dated 10/25/23.
2. Architectural documents for 174 Arlington Street, dated 10/16/23.