



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2024, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Ken Dow (KD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

Guests: Anne Forbes (AF)

Absent: Victoria Beyer (VB),

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes from May 8** – BF moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting. BK seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Residents' concerns** – AF shared a paper that gave a short tutorial on researching a town's historical properties. She gave a summary at the recent Acton 250 talk by David Hardt on June 10th at the Acton Memorial Library.
- 3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – No update.
- 4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road** - No update.
- 5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures)** – BR continues to take pictures of barns on various roads. BK asked BR to check on the barn at 81 Charter Rd.
- 6. Under demo delay:** None.
- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** None
- 8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update:** The HC request of \$14K for the National Register application was approved at the Annual Town Meeting, though the awards letter has not yet been received. Next step is to hire a contractor to do the National Register application.
- 9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update** – No update. BD is hoping to meet with Mike Gendron's yet-to-be hired replacement

10. Acton 250 Committee update – BF noted that the last two Acton 250 events were very well attended. Historian Bob Allison presented “The Empire Strikes Back” on May 29 in Room 2004. And on Monday, June 10 at 7PM. at the Acton Memorial Library David Hardt presented on the Nathaniel Edwards House at 328 Pope Road, where he lives today. This lecture was part of the series “Still Here: Houses of Our Patriots”. David has done extensive research on this mid-18th century center-chimney building. The Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250> is a good source of information about past and future tours and lectures.

II. New/Special Business

- 1. Review Archaeological Assessment Report—123 Quarry Road.** The application for an archaeological assessment received on May 8. The assessment report from archaeologist David Gutbrod was received by BD on June 5, and distributed to the HC soon after. After much discussion, BD moved to determine a finding of no adverse impact on lots 3,4,5,6 and parcel Y on Stamsky and McNary’s Master Plan of 123 Quarry Road, dated April 24, 2024. BF seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The report did, however, note of importance of the adjacent homestead of Revolutionary War veteran John Oliver at 115 Quarry Road. We recommended further study of this important archaeological resource. BD will draft a decision letter, which needs to be sent within 14 days of this meeting.
- 2. Archaeological Assessment Application—738 Main Street.** The application for an archaeological assessment received on May 22nd. This area has been clear cut years ago, and there is a minimal amount of undisturbed land. BK moved that we not request an archaeological assessment for this property. BD seconded. The motion passed unanimously. BD will write letter to the applicant,
- 3. Discuss replacement plaque for Women’s Club.** BR noted that Meg Nichols from Painted Lady Sign Co. agreed to take the plaque, smooth out the edges, and return the plaque at no charge.
- 4. Discuss Historical Plaque typefaces for future signs.** The “IM Fell” typeface will be used on future plaques.
- 5. Review improvements at Route 27 – Mass DOT improvements.** BD shared a May 16 communication from Mass DOT on Kelly’s Corner area and Route 2 ramps. The HD members felt no response was warranted.

III. Consent Items - None

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

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of May 8, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission