



## **ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes July 10, 2024, 7:30 pm**

**Town Hall, Room 126**

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

**Guests:** David Gutbrod, Senior Archaeologist at Chronicle Heritage Group (DG), Anne Forbes (AF)

### **Absent:**

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

### **I. Regular Business**

**1. Review of meeting minutes June 12** – BD moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting. BK seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Residents' concerns** – AF noted that the Mass. Historical Commission (MHC) listserve has included several recent communications about the Massachusetts Bay Colony tercentenary signs dating from the 1930s. She and BK noted we have 3 in Acton. Also, these are owned by the Commonwealth, not the town.

**3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – KD noted that the buildings at 358 Great Road are undergoing planning renovations. The permit has not yet been issued. BD will comment to Planning Dept that this property and its structures are on the CRL and thus will be subject to the Demo Delay bylaw.

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

**5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures)** – No update.

**6. Under demo delay:** None.

**7. Historical Plaque Applications:** None. Meg Nichols has picked up plaque from the Acton's Women Club and will do the rework as requested at no charge.

**8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update:** VB will check on the CPC grant for Woodlawn National Register since the award letter has not yet been received.

**9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update –** No update.

**10. Acton 250 Committee update –** BF noted that there are no events scheduled for July and August, but several are already confirmed for September and beyond, including one talk scheduled for March 6. Upcoming events will continue to be posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

## **II. New/Special Business**

- 1. Discuss site visit to 123 Quarry Road.** Bettina Norton had extended an invitation to BD for the HC to visit. Based on the report from DG noted in the next item, the HC agreed that a visit to 123 Quarry Road would be warranted. The HC members would also like to view John Oliver's likely house site. Suggested dates were morning visits on Wednesday, July 24 or Thursday, August 1. BD will contact Bettina and see if those dates (or others) would work.
- 2. David Gutbrod presentation of 123 Quarry Road.** DG discussed the Archaeological Assessment report he prepared on this site, which is currently planned for four proposed houses. He showed a map of the 1 mile radius of the site and touched on the known and MACRIS-inventoried properties within that radius. He described the usual review process he goes through, the discussions with Bettina Norton, and the revisit with one of David's expert colleagues to examine Bettina's pottery finds

DG recommended the developer might consider retaining the animal confinement as an interesting feature of this site, as well as preserving the excellently preserved stone walls throughout much of the site. BD will follow up on these suggestions.

David's report also noted the importance of the adjacent homestead of Revolutionary War veteran John Oliver at 115 Quarry Road. Oliver has an extraordinary and underappreciated role. He was an African-American Acton citizen who lived nearby in North Acton until his passing in 1840. He fought at Bunker Hill and at the Revolutionary War battle of White Plains. DG noted that the American Battlefield Trust could be a source of funding for a project to unearth more of John Oliver's story.

- 3. Review 25% submission of MassDOT Route 27 & 2 intersection.** BD led a discussion on the May 16 letter from MassDOT. The plans do not appear to effect the Hosmer House or to negatively effect the immediate vicinity. BD made a motion to have no comment on the Section 106 Review for this project. VB seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

**Adjournment:** BD moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:30 PM.

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

1. Minutes of June 12, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission

## 2. 123 Quarry Road Archaeological Assessment Report