



ACTON HISTORICALCOMMISSION

Meeting Minutes October 16, 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), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA)

Guests: None

Absent: Victoria Beyer (VB),

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

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes September 11 – BD moved to approve the minutes of the September 11 meeting as corrected. BK seconded and the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents' concerns – BK mentioned that Acton Fire Chief Anita Arnum is requesting a letter of recommendation to the CPC to support the restoration of engines 3 and 4 for CPC funding. BD made a motion to send a letter, BK seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. BK will draft a letter for BD to submit,

BR had a conversation with Select Board member Alisa Nicol that the Historical Commission might undertake some activity on the benefits and importance of cultural preservation for Acton. There was some discussion about presenting to various Town boards and developing some handouts on positive results in Acton. BD thought we could examine at prior Annual Reports for material. BD asked that we can discuss again at future meetings, and BK noted this is the HC's 55th year.

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

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: BK noted the new plaque at the Women's Club is now posted on the brick area.

8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update: BD will send out requests for quotes to possible vendors to prepare the Woodlawn Cemetery National Register Application. BF noted he received a list of New England CRM firms from Tonya Largy, a Wayland archaeologist, and will forward it to BD and the HC.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update: No update.

10. Acton 250 Committee update: BF and BK reported on recent events, including the introduction of Acton's own Isaac Davis Brown Ale. Also, an Explorer Scout has launched an elaborate Scavenger Hunt for all of Acton's 5 graders. At least one event is now scheduled every month through next April. All the past and planned upcoming Acton 250 events are posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

II. New/Special Business

- 1. Discuss/review new historic marker sign maker.** VB will contact Crosby Sign for consideration.
- 2. Acton History page for HC or Town website?** This may be part of the committee outreach effort noted in the second item above in Residents' Concerns.
- 3. Discuss process for initiating a demolition delay hearings.** BD noted the "triggers" for demo delay hearings now rarely come from the Building Dept and instead come now mostly from people *before* they apply for a permit with the Building Dept. BD suggested perhaps there could be a form and explanation on the web site to formalize this process. BR offered to draft a sample for consideration.

BR noted that the renovation 37-39 Nagog Hill Rd will have a hearing at the HC November 13 meeting. BD must recuse himself as he is the architect for this renovation, so BK will preside on November 13.

BR noted there may also be a hearing soon for the complete demolition of the former Merriam Piano Stool Company office at 115 River St. BD noted the HC should schedule a site visit before any hearing.

BR noted the Building Dept has tagged 358B (barn) on the Town GIS system, as requested at the September 11 HC meeting.

- 4. Apply for any CPC grants.** There were no specific suggestions to submit any proposal before the November 12 deadline. BF suggested in the future, there might be a proposal for a fund to support follow on CRM studies, in the event a preliminary archaeological assessment indicated a promising, significant discovery.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: BD moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 8:40 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of September 11, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission