



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes March 12, 2025, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

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

Guests: Alissa Nicol (AN)

Absent: none

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

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes February 12 – VB moved to approve the minutes of the February 12 meeting. BK seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents' concerns – Alissa Nicol of the Acton Select Board attended to discuss a public engagement process on the naming of the park 53 River Street. Anne Forbes has suggested “Shoddy Mill Park” rather than “Textile Mill Park”. AN has received letters from neighbors and former 53 River Committee members. A variety of issues and approaches were discussed.

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

4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road – BD and BR visited with Kristin Guichard of the Planning Dept to discuss this. BD and BR are now developing an RFP for structural engineers and another for landscape architects.

5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures): Nothing new.

6. Under demo delay: None.

7. Historical Plaque Applications: No new applications.

8. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery: BR drafted an RFP based on an application for the Forest Cemetery in North Acton. The

committee suggested some editing of the draft. The Committee recommended several CRM/Archaeology firms who should receive the RFP. BR and BD will send it to at least 3 firms.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update: No update.

10. Acton 250 Committee update: BF noted that there were two recent and very successful talks, one on Feb 26 featuring Bill Klauer, Anne Forbes, and Bob Pion titled “A Snapshot of Acton's Early Black Residents (1730-1830)”, and another on March 6 with sculptor Meredith Bergmann titled “A Sculptor Speaks For Her Statues”. The last talk before Patriot’s Day will be on March 31 with noted historian John L. Bell titled “Spies and Military Intelligence”. Acton 250 chair Steve Trimble is organizing a Town Celebration on April 16 at the Discovery Museum. All the past and near-term upcoming Acton 250 events are posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

11. Historic marker sign maker search. BR visited Crosby Design in West Concord. She feels he understands the process well and seems flexible. BR wanted feedback on typefaces and wanted to make sure the \$200 per sign was acceptable. The committee was OK with this. BD made a motion that Crosby Design of West Concord be approved as the historic marker sign maker. BK seconded and the motion passed unanimously. BR will now ask Crosby to produce a plaque for the Asa Parlin house.

12. Process for initiating a demolition delay hearing. The committee felt more discussion is needed.

13. Underground railroad site outreach. KD wrote a draft letter to send to the property owners of the 9 underground railroad sites asking if the owner would have an interest in a historic marker on the property. BR was asked to refine the draft with the committee’s feedback. The revised draft will be discussed next month. KD to provide BR Property Cards info for 8 locations.

II. New/Special Business None

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:45PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

-Minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting of the Historical Commission