

Acton Historic District Committee
Meeting June 12, 2012
Minutes

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TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Meeting was opened at 7:30PM by Chair, Kathy Acerbo-Bachman.

Also present were Anita Rogers (AR), Pam Lynn (PL), David Honn (DH), Ron Rose (RR), Michaela Moran (MM), David Barrat (DB) Mike Gowing (MG), BoS Liaison, and Ann Forbes (AF), Ryan Bettez (RB), Jim Chiarelli (JC), citizens.

Citizens' Concerns: AF was concerned about the presence of illegal signs in the historic districts, especially the Graphic Connections sign in West Acton. KAB We are working together with the Planning Department to coordinate the recent changes in the Town's sign by-law at Town Meeting and the provisions of Chapter P regarding permanent signs in the historic districts.

Meeting Minutes: The April 24, 2012 and the May 22, 2012 to both be voted on at the next meeting on June 26, 2012.

7:40 Asa Parlin House, MM Liaison: MM to update the commission regarding the concerns expressed by others from CPC, BoS concerning what the use of the building might be. CPC needs to re-study the possible uses for the building once restored. The Town needs meeting space. There is a perceived need for political support for restoring it. PL Suggested reading the "Patch" before attending the meeting to be held on the 13th of June. KAB The only body in Town who can approve demolition of the Asa Parlin house or any building in the historic districts is HDC. PL The "Patch" made me think that the meeting concerning the Asa Parlin house would be more negative than positive. DH The positive thing about these meetings is that the consultants/architects get a good sense of the town.

RR What were the CPC funds for, to enter an open ended study?

KAB The CPC and TM funded a feasibility study to demolish the newer structures of the Asa Parlin house and preserve the original structure. The Historic Commission and HDC made a joint proposal to CDC for that purpose. That's what Town Meeting voted for. RB Town Meeting voted funding to determine if the building is sound and worth saving. KAB It was just a feasibility study, a small amount. PL to check on the CPC's documents and minutes for a history of what was decided.

KAB will check with Dean Charter concerning the purpose of the funds by Town Meeting. The house is considerably old and may have been moved from another location. It is on the historic register.

RR Removal of the house would affect the character of the town center by creating a strip mall configuration. The house wouldn't be replaced if removed. There would be minimal landscaping with just a few more parking spaces. KAB The building won't be demolished unless the HDC approves it. It is in the Town Center Historic District.

PL, MM, RR, DB and MG will all be at the discussion on the 13th as individuals, not as members of HDC.

There had been an estimate some time ago of \$350,000 to rehab the house. MM HDC had asked for study data from an earlier study but never received it.

8:00PM 586 Mass. Ave. App. 1104: Taken up early. Moved and seconded to extend the Certificate of Appropriateness issued on March 8, 2011 for one year from March 8, 2012 to March 8, 2013. After discussion the commission voted unanimously to extend. DB will send notice to owners/applicants.

8:05 PM App. 906A WAVE: Moved and seconded to extend the Certificate of Appropriateness for one year to June 2013. Owner/Applicant to be notified.

8:45 PM Discussion of HDC Membership and Officers: Taken out of order. DB transitioning out. KAB to continue as Chair for another year. PL to continue as Vice Chair. KAB and MM terms expire next year. Need to seek new members. Registered architects living in Acton are potential members. RR will make inquiry. MM to look into recruiting attorneys in Acton. The HDC will vote on officers at the next meeting.

DH to be on the steering committee for the Asa Parlin house rehabilitation project.

8:15 Application 1157-Veterans Memorial Plaque. PL Liaison. John Murray not appearing. Plaque proposed to be placed at or near the site of the Veterans Memorial on the town common. The design is more appropriate for display in the town hall. MM Why have a list of all the participants many of whom are town employees? It would be hard to attach the plaque to the monument or other stone. Seems to be an after thought. MG the individuals listed in the plaque all donated time. DH The plaque would be more appropriately placed in the town hall lobby where more people could read it. The plaque should thank the donors and leave others out. DB Placed at the town common it would be surplusage. AR Need to look for a better place for a list of the donors. As it is, it is inappropriate. MG Likes its placement in town hall. KAB More appropriate in town hall. Should replace the town insignia with an image of the actual memorial. PL to report back to John Murray. KAB If the plaque is to be placed at the common, we will need to vote on it.

9:15 Discussion of Violations in the Historic Districts: There are several aspects to this topic. There is a fence at 69 River Street. Frank Ramsbottom has been called to address this. Owner needs a permit from HDC for this fence. FR to inform owner that he needs to apply to HDC for a permit. Need to contact realtors to inform buyers of the properties that are located in the historic districts.

Steve Su has window replacements in violation of DC requirements. He has been formally notified. DB to provide AR with documentation.

MM to address the proliferation of satellite dishes in the historic districts. Will do a drive-by. There are at least 10-12 satellite dishes in South Acton Historic District alone. Need a complete list for FR to send notices of violations to. Also FR needs to send a notice of violation for a door replacement on a white house on School Street.

MM to work on rough draft of HD sign by-law revisions for the next July HDC meeting in preparation of the next town meeting.

David Hale has also replaced several windows at 12 School Street without a permit. He used unacceptable windows in violation of the HD bylaw. Needed to add exterior grills on the

windows installed but hasn't. Also needs to return the uninstalled offending windows to vendor but hasn't. Need to check on the status.

MM Would like to pursue adding Martin and Maple Streets to the Historic District.

Need to send the same letter to owners of homes in the three historic districts as was sent last year regarding conformity with Chapter P of the town's HD bylaws.

WAVE to appear for one hour at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David T. Barrat". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

David T. Barrat,
Secretary