

Historic District Commission  
Meeting Minutes February 23, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:40PM. David Honn (DH), Scott Kutil (SK), Ellie Halsey (EH), Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann (KAB), Michaela Moran (MM), and Brian Bendig (BB) were in attendance. Terra Friedrichs (TF) was absent. Anne Forbes (AF) was present as a member of the public.

BB reported that a preliminary subdivision plan was submitted for 4 High Street. This is a different plan than the one we reviewed at the request of the BOS a few years ago. One building from the reviewed plan was constructed (the duplex nearest the street). The new plan for the subdivision is completely different. BB said 4 High Street is not in the South Acton Historic District Area and thus does not require our involvement unless the selectmen want us to review the revised design.

The Lazzaro property subdivision "freeze plan" at 53 River Street has been scheduled for a March 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:15 public hearing before the Planning Committee. EH volunteered to attend the meeting for informational purposes. The HDC does not have any application before it for 53 River Street.

Minutes for the 1/20/ 2009 meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes for the 2/2/2009 Public Hearing were approved as revised: Isabella Choate's written comments and the Public Hearing sign-in sheet will put in the HDC files.

EH and MM have written a proposal for the CPC loan/grant program to help homeowners in the Districts and homeowners whose homes are on the Historic Resources List maintain their homes. The proposal will be sent to the HDC for comment.

A COA was sent to Lisa Millet for Application 0821.

Bonnie Geithner stopped in to say hello after the completion of the VCC's meeting in Room 121. We told her about our needs regarding membership, since she is the Chair of the VCC.

SK brought up the issue of the form-based application on the HDC website. After some discussion we decided to ask Laura Mason from IT to make the form. Also, BB will make a copy of the revised HDC Rules and Regulations available for the website.

There was a report on the Town job fair by KAB. The turnout by the target public (uninvolved in Town Boards and Committees) appeared to be poor: Of the 31 attendees it was unclear how many in the audience were not currently members of Town boards and committees or the League of Women Voters, who sponsored the event (KAB estimated 10 or under). DH made a suggestion that we have a job fair at the Town Meeting.

The Boston Society of Architects sent us the names of three architects who live in Acton. EH will contact the individuals.

BB said that Nancy Tavernier, the LWV Observer (not present tonight for some reason), apparently is not a neutral observer. She is misreporting what goes on in the HDC meetings in the LWV Bulletins. She is a strong proponent of affordable housing and (over-)maximized density, two policies that are in conflict with historic preservation. BB is sending out two letters in this regard, one to the Planning Board rebutting Nancy's points and the second letter to the LWV.

EH reported on the CPC. The planting of shade trees in the Historic Districts has their full support. The Space Study that would affect the Woobury Lane property is probably not going to be supported by the selectmen and the open space set aside funding is being increased to \$500,000.

BB reported on the outstanding violation at 83 River Street. He said that Town Counsel's office has asked him for more information regarding the violation. He will tell the attorney at the Anderson office to provide comments on the draft letter to Parra and to find the additional information. BB said he thought the notice should be sent out, without further delay. BB promised to send the letter to attorney Alex Parra with 48 hours.

EH volunteered to visit Glenn Berger at Exchange Hall this Friday, February 27, and report on the progress being made there. EH has also visited each of the businesses with outstanding violations and she has talked with all of them except Graphic Connections. The Village Hair Stylist in West Acton told EH that the old sign will be painted out. The Teriyaki Kitchen sign on Frank Chen's business was put there for a business renter, who knew nothing about the sign. The HDC should get in touch with Frank Chen to address this.

The POD on Town Common will be removed by the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. The Town has drafted a complaint and summons of hearing for the violation. Dean Charter contacted the owner of the property with this information and she agreed to remove the POD by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The American Legion would like to install a permanent podium on the Town Common, to be used for salutes and presentations. The HDC will invite Harry Tinseh to come in and discuss the podium.

The Demolition by Neglect Bylaw will not be brought to Town Meeting. The HDC will look into which towns have this Bylaw and reformulate.

Peter Berry is our new HDC liaison on the BOS.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.