

Historic District Commission (Combined meeting with 53 River Street Master Planning Committee)

Acton Recreation Center (Former Senior Center)

Meeting Minutes, 7 November 2018

53 River Street Master Planning Committee Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. HDC members attending: Anita Rogers (AR), Ron Regan (RR), Maria Crowley (MC), and John Benson (JB) Selectmen Representative.

7:15 pm Peter J. Berry asked the HDC members for their thoughts on the 53 River St property and proposed ideas. AR responded that we are open to all the proposed ideas as long as the detailed designs fit in to and/or complement the properties in the South Acton Village. There was a discussion about the state of the dam and what could happen if the dam is removed, partially removed, or restored. There are investigations that need to occur before any decision can be made. The committee preparing a proposal to find someone to review the dam and other site research projects. Peter asked about demolishing the existing structures. AR responded that we like to have a plan before allowing demo. RR elaborated that in this case the block building and structures used for storing paving materials could probably be removed without knowing the final proposal as those structures don't fit in with the residential area and removing them would have a positive impact on the district. The historic structures such as the dam and remnants of the gate house and foundation of the mills would ideally be kept. We wouldn't want to remove those unless something compelling were going to happen to the site. Peter and Selby agree that the historic mill foundation, gate house and dam would ideally be preserved and possibly re-used. What happens to the dam is going to be driven by safety issues. MC is concerned about the dam and potential issues and impact if it is removed as well as if it is restored and how it will be maintained and how the dam impacts the rest of the site.

8:00pm The combined meeting with the HDC members was closed.