



Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

2/20/2019

7:30 PM

Room 126, Town Hall, 472 Main St, Acton, MA 01720

Present: David Honn (DH), Anita Rogers (AR), Ron Regan (RR), Fran Arsenault (FA), Maria Crowley (MC), John Benson (JB) BOS liaison.

Absent: David Shoemaker (DS)

1. Opening

Chair David Honn opened the meeting at 7:36 pm.

2. Regular Business Regular Business

- A. Citizen's Concerns – No citizens present.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the Historic District Commission meeting January 22, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by a vote of 5-0, with no amendments.
- C. Review Project Tracking Spreadsheet – no new applications.

3. New/Special Business [or other applicable agenda items]

A. Asa Parlin House Stabilization CPC Application by John Mangiaratti for Town of Acton

John explained the CPC has mixed feelings about granting money for the Asa Parlin house. The building is categorized as surplus space by the town, i.e. it has no use. The CPC doesn't know if the HDC will approve the proposed partial demolition. The CPC needs to explain at the town meeting why it is spending money to preserve this building. The selective demo will leave the primary building plus a historic building that was moved and attached. The additions in the back will be removed. The CPC meeting is tomorrow and John would like the HDC to indicate it will support the project to the CDC. DH - we can make a recommendation, but due to there not being an application we can't have a formal vote. We will update the original letter of support we sent to the CPC to include a recommendation for the partial selective demolition based on what the HDC supported back in 2013.

B. Application 1837 by David Shoemaker for 14 Newtown Road

Application to install a generator in the rear of the property, below street grade behind an earthen wall with a granite top. The applicant supplied pictures of a mockup indicating the top of the generator may be visible. AR assigned liaison, FA will do abutters' notices.



Findings: minimally visible location in the back of the house as such this will be for COA and not a CNA; Newtown Road is the governing way.

Member AR made a motion to approve the installation of a generator in backyard that will be screened by the grade and granite blocks. If the generator is visible after installation, the height of the earthen wall with granite top will be raised to hide its visibility from the street. MC seconded the motion.

The HDC voted 5-0 to approve the motion. The motion was approved.

C. Application 1838 by Andy Richardt for West Side Creamery 537 Mass Ave

Application for a sign and awning. The sign is 30" round made of wood or high-density urethane with carved letters. The awning will match the existing in size as the Montessori school's awning and be installed in its place. FA assigned liaison. Andy presented an image of the sign design. Ken Duval will be making the sign. Ken made the sign for True West out of the high-density urethane and hand painted it to give a more old-fashioned wood sign look. No one had any reservations about the sign or awning design. Findings: Mass Ave is the governing way; the awning will replace existing; sign will use existing frame for mounting.

Member FA made a motion to approved the proposed sign and awning designs. The sign may be made from high-density urethane or wood. Sign finish required to look like handing painting to show brush strokes and texture. AR seconded.

The HDC voted 5-0 to approve the motion. The motion was approved.

D. 53 River Street Report

DH – the report we are reviewing is a phase one study. The 53 River street committee is applying for CPC funds to do a phase 2 study. I'm not sure if the HDC can make a call to require the dam be preserved or allow demolition; not sure if Frank Ramsbottom can make the call or if it has to be a state agency.

4. Adjournment

At 9:32 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of January 22, 2019;
- Application 1837;
- Application 1838; and
- River Street Dam Phase 1 Inspection/Evaluation Report