

## **ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2020  
7:30 pm

### **Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Present:** Bob Ferrara (BF), Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Dickinson (BD) – (Chair), Dean Charter (DC) - (Select Board Liaison), Bill Klauer (BK), Jaye Oman (JO), Brad Maxwell (BM)

**Absent:**

#### **1. Opening**

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and read the procedures and agreed-on policies the Town developed for these web-based Zoom meetings.

#### **2. Regular Business**

- 1) Approval of August Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the AHC's August 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 7-0.
- 2) Citizen Concerns: A citizen's email was read in which he thanked the AHC for putting a demolition delay on the Discovery Museum's house at 183 Main St. Neil Gordon, from the Discovery Museum, updated the commission on their attempts to market the house at 183 Main Street as a free structure to whomever would move it from the site. They are using their social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram as well as local ads, press releases, and emails to their members list. It was agreed that these good-faith efforts would motivate the commission to lift the demolition delay if someone does not agree to acquire the building within six months.
- 3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL: DH stated that he had reviewed the meeting agendas and hearings of the ZBA and did not recognize any known historic properties for review.
- 4) PAL Associates – CRL to MACRIS Update: JO updated the group on the CPA project to add overlooked historic structures to the MACRIS list and update existing inventory forms. With these 35 new forms complete and over 139 existing resource forms updated, the project is considered complete and PAL's invoice was approved for

payment.

- 5) Bridge Project between Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and TTT: BF stated that the Friends of Pine Hawk were concerned about the increased foot traffic that would occur on the Trail-Through-Time if a bridge linked this area to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The TTT has many ceremonial stone landscapes and piles created by indigenous peoples. Land stewards of the Nashoba Brook Conservation Area also expressed concern about the effects from this additional traffic. BD will continue to work with all parties on this effort.
- 6) Archaeological By-Law Update: BF reviewed his latest revisions and edits to the proposed by-law. The group felt that it was much improved in terms of clarity and specificity. BM suggested having Town Counsel review the draft and put it into a form that would work as a by-law. DC recommended getting this issue on the Select Board agenda for an upcoming meeting to gauge their feelings on the matter. He will reach out to Chair member Jon Benson and Town Manager John Mangiaratti for their input on getting it before the Town Meeting on April of 2021. .
- 7) Demolition Delay Application/Instruction Form: A final draft form approved by Frank Ramsbottom was reviewed for the Building Department to use. This version will continue to be reviewed before it is finalized.
- 8) 53 River Street Update: Matthew Selby, Director of Land Use and Economic Development, attended the meeting and outlined his plans for removal of the 53 River Street dam. The AHC had invited Selby out of concern that he had progressed to the 75% planning stage for this historic dam and former mill site without communicating with the AHC. Selby stated that he was soliciting bids for the detailed historical investigation recommended by PAL, and hoped to select a contractor and begin the historic survey soon.

### **3. New/Special Business**

- 1) Plaque Requests for 88 Prospect Street, and 292 Central Street: All of the outstanding applications for plaques were reviewed and discussed. BM explained the process he goes through when various issues and interpretations arise between homeowners and the AHC. VB will be taking over the future processing of these plaque applications.

### **4. Consent Items - None**

**5. Adjournment:** At 9:08 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

#### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Meeting minutes of August 2020