



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020
7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:32 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 November Meeting Minutes** – The meeting minutes from the AHC's November 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.
- 2) **Citizen Concerns:** Anne Forbes stated that we should pay special attention to Morrison Farm now that it has come under the purview of the newly formed Agricultural Commission. The Commission is considering options for this historically important, town-owned property and we should know what might be planned. Alissa Nicol felt that the Assessor's Office should notify the HC about any properties purchased or taken for back taxes in order to discuss desired outcomes for historical properties. Habitat for Humanity was seen as a desirable partner in renovating historical buildings.
- 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) **Bridge Project between Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and TTT:** BD is finalizing a two-phase CPC grant application to build the bridge. It is currently budgeted at around \$44k.
- 5) **Archaeological By-Law Update:** RF updated the group on his CPC proposal to develop a reserve of funds for on-demand archaeological assessments and investigations for applicants whose development areas have a high probability of containing historical



elements. He is still waiting for the agreed-on meeting with Town Counsel about the by-law.

- 6) **Historic House Plaque Requests Update:** The outstanding applications for plaques were reviewed and discussed. One application for 430 Main Street is still ongoing. It was agreed to do better publicity for the plaque program. DH will reach out to the Beacon to suggest an article on the program.
- 7) **53 River Street Update:** Concern was again expressed that the AHC has not been included generally in the project planning nor was it consulted about the scope statement and RFQ developed for the archaeological investigation. The AHC was unable to get a copy of the RFQ since it, and other documentation, are missing from the 53 River Street Committee DocuShare repository. As follow-up from the previous meeting, DC was to obtain the RFQ scope statement for the Commission. This has not yet occurred.
- 8) **19-21 Maple Street Letter:** BD sent a letter to the Town outlining the AHC's thoughts about the importance of this site and the historic building on it.

3. New/Special Business

- 1) **44 Maple Street:** BK stated that the Tuttle House at this address was recently taken by the Town in lieu of unpaid taxes. There are no immediate plans and the AHC will monitor the planning and status of this historic building.
- 2) **615 Massachusetts Ave:** There was a general discussion about whether this historic building, that has generated much interest among potential buyers, is in the South Acton Historic District. It is.
- 3) **Discuss Asa Parlin Renovation Options:** BD reviewed the different renovation options suggested by the Town. The group agreed that BD would write a letter to the Town Manager supporting Option 3.
- 4) **Vote on CPC Applications: Archaeological By-Law and Pencil Factory Bridge.** VB assisted the AHC with these two sponsored grant proposals. The group voted unanimously 5-0 to approve and support them.

4. Consent Items - None



5. Adjournment: At 9:21 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of November 2020