



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021
7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Bob Ferrara (BF), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Klauer (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Dean Charter (DC) - (Select Board Liaison), Alissa Nicol (AN) (non-voting future member)

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM), Bill Dickinson (BD) – (Chair),

1. Opening

Acting Chair Doug Herrick 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 February Minutes** – The meeting minutes from the AHC's February 2021, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 4-0.
- 2) **Citizen Concerns:** BF shared information on the construction of the Nagog Pond inflow pipe across from the Red Raven. He wanted the group to be aware of opportunities to engage in archaeological investigation of the pond bottom should the area be de-watered.
- 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 was absent and will update the group on this project at the next meeting.
- 5) **Archaeological By-Law Update:** BF updated the group on Town Counsel's review of the project, specifically concerns about making distinctions between land owners vs. developers in qualifying for the subsidized initial investigations. Funding for these investigations was requested from the CPC. It was agreed that BF would approach Town Counsel with a 2-step process of providing all applicants falling under the new by-law with initial subsidized funding for a cursory investigation followed, if warranted, by a full



archaeological investigation to be paid for by the applicant.

- 6) **Historic House Plaque Requests Update: 292 Central Street and 14 Maple Street.** VB and BM will work together to finish off any remaining requests and communicate with homeowners who have not provided all the information needed for moving forward on these requests.
- 7) **53 River Street Update:** DH and BK updated the group on the 53 River Street Committee meeting and the written comments sent by the AHC sent to the Committee. Grey and Pape will begin their intensive archaeological investigation of the 53 River Street site when their dig permit is approved by the MHC and when weather improves.
- 8) **Status of Converting CRL to MACRIS:** BD reported via Doug Herrick that 35 inventory forms from PAL had been received last August but that the MACRIS team is still reviewing and uploading the survey forms. This can take up to a year given the large number of forms received by MACRIS.

3. New/Special Business

- 1) **Review of 66 Maple Street Architectural Drawings:** Owner Michael DiPlatzi and architect Elise Stone joined the meeting to review their proposed plans for retaining and expanding the existing historical building and adding another building to the lot at 66 Maple Street. DH read comments by BD expressing support for the existing designs and noted that a recent meeting of residents generated no objections to the size or layout of the project. The AHC voted unanimously (4-0) to authorize BD to draft a letter to the Town in support of the current project design.
- 2) **Report on 19-21 Maple Street Meeting:** AN, DC, and BK attended this town-sponsored public meeting to review proposals for this train station adjacent site. The town wants to have a plan in place to be able to begin work when funding is available. It was recommended that the main historic building be saved and that the design for parking and passenger drop-off take into account motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Planning for services for users of the adjacent Assabet River Rail should also be taken into account. It was estimated that a final recommendation would be made in a month or so.
- 3) **Demolition Delay Hearing Required on 4 Piper Lane:** The AHC, having previously done a walk-through of this property and found little of historic value remaining, voted unanimously (4-0) to not put a demolition delay on 4 Piper Lane.
- 4) **Historic Plaque Program Segment on Acton TV:** Vivian Birchall, who left the Town to work for Acton TV, is interested in developing a program describing the historic building plaque program managed by the AHC. AN will coordinate this effort with VB



and BM.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment: At 8:52 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of February 2021