



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021
7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. Opening

Chair William Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:38 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 April Minutes** – The meeting minutes from the AHC's April meeting were reviewed. After proposing that a typo be corrected in the Morrison Farm section, they were approved unanimously by a vote of 6-0.
- 2) **Citizen Concerns:** BK expressed concern about a fire hydrant recently installed at the entrance of the Isaac Davis trail on Main Street. He wondered whether this would prevent vehicular access to this Conant property for the required tree harvesting. DC will contact Brewster Conant Jr. to discuss.
- 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:** Nothing to report while we wait for the formal CPC decision on funding.
- 5) **Archaeological By-Law Update:** Town Counsel Nina Pickering continued to provide edits to the draft by-law. BF briefed the group on his discussions with Ed Bell, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the Mass. Historical Commission. Ed communicated a preference that Acton work through the MHC on this effort, holding out the North Attleboro Archaeological By-Law as a model for us. After comparing the two,



BF felt that our version was stronger and was preferable. It was also felt that the process of developing this by-law would be hampered by running drafts and changes by the MHC, but that the MHC's involvement would have the benefit of creating a by-law that was consistent with state law. With this new development the group voted 6-0 to hold off putting this issue on the June Town Meeting warrant until these issues could be worked out.

- 6) **Historic House Plaque Requests Update: 292 Central Street, 14 Maple Street, 93 Harris St., 29 Windsor Ave.** All of these plaque requests were approved, and VB will follow up with the applications and the production of the plaques.
- 7) **53 River Street Update and Site Walk:** DH and BK updated the group on the Grey & Pape intensive archaeological investigation of the dam site and the proposed walk-thru and on-site meeting scheduled for June 5.
- 8) **Status of Converting CRL to MACRIS:** BD reported that he has all the completed work that PAL completed, and that the MACRIS team is still reviewing and uploading the survey forms. A discussion ensued about which historic building/area repository (MACRIS vs. Cultural Resource List) should be maintained as authoritative. MACRIS was seen as a more viable database.
- 9) **Update on 19-21 Maple Street** – AN briefed the group on the current Town proposal for keeping the historic building on the property and developing additional rail station parking, bicycle racks, and drop off lanes.
- 10) **Historic Marker Program Segment on Acton TV** – There is still interest in having Acton TV do a piece on the AHC historic marker program. We will continue to work out the details and determine who will do the on-air presentation.

3. New/Special Business

- 1) **Discuss Conservation Restriction on Morrison Farm:** Following a discussion of the Acton Agricultural Commission's proposal to put a conservation restriction on the Morrison Farm property, the group voted 6-0 to support this initiative. BD will draft a letter to Bettina Abe outlining this support.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment:

At 9:22 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.



Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of April 2021