



## **ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022, 7:30 pm**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Present:** Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Alissa Nicol (AN) - Clerk, Barb Rhines (BR) - Planning Division, Victoria Beyer (VB)

**Guests:** Anne Forbes (AF)

**Absent:** none

### **Opening**

Chair Bill Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM, and read the procedures and agreed-on policies the Town developed for these web-based Zoom meetings. Now that the Mass. Legislature has extended the open meeting pandemic rules about using Zoom vs. in-person meetings, the AHC will continue with Zoom meetings indefinitely until there is consensus about returning to in-person meetings.

### **I. Regular Business**

**1) Review of meeting minutes from May** – Meeting minutes from the AHC's May 11th meeting were reviewed; VB moved and BD seconded a motion to approve the minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0. BR asked where the minutes are posted as the most recent available on Town website AHC page are from December 2021, and most recent on docushare are from 2010; will follow up with Town Clerk

**2) Citizen concerns:** AF reiterates that public access to meeting minutes is critical, BK notes that Knox Trail is being developed and asks about historic documentation of area, a large area of land where an explosion destroyed 7 buildings, smokeless powder division of American Powder Company: BD suggests this would mean hiring someone to do an area form; CRL listed as #54 Knox Trail Mill Complex, Bunkers included Smokeless Powder Plant; BD notes that PAL identified areas of high probability; AF suggests finding area forms on Trail Through Time (TTT) as example and notes the area form needs to be written so it doesn't look like a "site form" (similar to MHC and stored out of

AHC and public view), will send on done on Concord side, if it's archaeological it's taken off the public site; BK and AF could work on this as volunteers; Diane Sergei did American Powdermills form (didn't extend to structures); BK notes the foundations of charcoal grinders at 77 Powdermill Rd, photographed 25 years ago on walk with Tom Tidman, but hasn't walked in years, old insurance maps will reveal what existed; AF notes that Concord side is named "Powdermill Woods" BD will add to next month's agenda; VB suggests using Jenks Library records for research; AF notes there is a summary in "Made in Acton" map

**3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?:** none

**4) Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road update:** no update

**5) Archaeological By-Law Update:** Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting; bylaw will go into effect July 1st, 2022; BR suggests we do publicity for other towns to model their own bylaw, BK notes Kristin says we need to write the procedure, a meeting will be set up with BD, BF, and BR to do this

**6) 53 River Street Update** - nothing to report

**7) Status of converting CRL to MACRIS** - BR has exported MACRIS into Excel and found 30-50 items not on CRL (most are not buildings, but markers, bridges, railroads, etc.); also found items on CRL that are not on MACRIS (ex - notation that barn is part of home address); reconciled and will bring any questions to commissioners; some address labels are ready for postcard; BK notes that under current system, homeowner pursuing renovation checks CRL, future system is a list on AHC page linking to MACRIS (inventory # will be provided to enter on MACRIS site), BR notes that Excel version will include explanation of cultural resources and text of process

## **II. New/Special Business**

- 1) 27 Martin Street HC representative** - BF will be liaison to homeowner, checking in once/3 months or so, whether they have any new info to present to commissioners, BR can provide names of those who work in area, but no recommendations; AF suggests posting to MHC listserv when homes are available or being renovated; liaison to direct owners to info on advantages to renovation over tear down
- 2) Sign request at 713 Main Street** - BR responded to this request in April and asks if application is in need of updating; VB has not yet contacted possible sign makers, BR will take on this task, and notes need for more efficient system, VB and BR will address this together; AHC must approve the sign (checking accuracy of date, deciding whether the builder or resident name should go on sign)

- 3) **Review/discuss HC - CRL outreach flyer** - commissioners all agree that the postcard looks great, minor edit of HC to AHC and addition of sentence about Historic Plaque Program, to be printed on ivory 110 card stock, ~800 addresses, removed all w/o street address and HDC addresses
- 4) **Looking for house plaque manufacturer** - as noted in II.2, BR will contact possible manufacturer

### **III. Consent Items - None**

### **Adjournment**

AN moved and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 8:58 PM.

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

- Cultural Resource List
- Postcard for CRL Properties
- These documents can be found here - <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-2961>