



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Alissa Nicol - Clerk (AN), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

Guests: Andy Magee - 53 River Street Project Manager

Absent: Victoria Beyer

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes from March** - BF moved to approve the minutes of the February 8th meeting, BK seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously 3-0 with one abstention.
- 2. Citizen concerns** - none
- 3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** none
- 4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road update** - none
- 5. Archeological By-Law implementation update** - commissioners reviewed draft of rules and regulations prepared by Planning staff, general consensus is that much of application is too detailed; BF and BD will meet to conduct a detailed edit, and commissioners will finalize in May
- 6. 53 River Street update – final MOA review** - AM explained that 404 Wetlands Permit is needed for dam removal, approval from MA Historical Commission (MHC) and Acton Historical Commission (AHC) required, MOA was drafted and presented to AHC in December; MHC has approved with some additions (deadlines, regulatory references, etc.) and edits, AM assures commissioners that all elements, although sections have been rearranged, from draft are included; BD moved to approve MOA dated 3/10/23 as written, BK seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously

7. Status of converting CRL to MACRIS - Cultural Resources Intern position has been posted for the summer

8. Under demo delay: 27 Martin St - BF has reached out again to owner, but no news

9. Historical Plaque Applications:

95 (97) Main Street, “Edward Richardson, c 1872” BK moved and BD seconded a motion to approve the application, and the motion was approved unanimously

226 Arlington Street, “Clark G Durkee, 1895” AN moved and BF seconded a motion to approve the application, and the motion was approved unanimously

10. National Register application for Woodlawn Cemetery - need to hire a consultant, submit a CPA application for funding, BK suggested a letter to MHC to review MACRIS forms on Cemetery, Chapel, Joseph Robbins and Morrison, will draft this letter

II. New/Special Business

1. Morrison Farm CR update - BD suggested that commissioners review a map of the parcels along Concord Road that we envision as being included in a National Register Historic District or a Local Historic District, BR noted that to create a local district would require a study committee (if HDC does not take this on, MA Ch 40C stipulates a nomination process that includes Local Historical Society, Board of Realtors, and the American Institute of Architects), outreach, etc. BD suggested the most logical approach is to create a local district; parcels to include dam house (127 Concord Rd), East Acton Village Green, Morrison parcel, and Woodlawn Cemetery and Chapel; BD will attend an upcoming HDC meeting to discuss, then next step is to present to Select Board

2. Update on purchase discussion of 549 Main Street per OSC - AN reported that the Open Space Committee voted to recommend the purchase of the Conservation Restriction to Town Meeting

3. Acton 250 Committee update - BF and AN reported that history sub-committee has been formed to identify events to commemorate in the 2 years leading up to April 19, 2025

III. Consent Items - None

BF announced an event, “Review of Acton Area Archaeology” on May 24th at Memorial Library, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, will include a brief review of the archaeological protection bylaw at end of program

Adjournment

AN moved to adjourn and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:24 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

March 8th, 2023 minutes

Historical Marker applications for 95 Main Street and 226 Arlington Street

Archaeology Bylaw: Preservation of Archaeologically Significant Resources Rules and Regulations