



## ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes January 10th, 2024, 7:30 pm

**Town Hall, Room 126**

**Present:** Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Bob Ferrara (BF) via Facetime, Bill Klauer (BK), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

**Guests:** none

**Absent:** none

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

### I. Regular Business

**1. Review of meeting minutes from December 13** – VB moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting. BD seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Residents' concerns** – Bob Ferrara mentioned that a resident who lives near the Pine Hawk site found what appears to be a grinding stone. He gave it to archaeologist Kimberley Connors, who believed it to be from the Middle Archaic period, about 4,000 years before present. The resident asked that the stone be given to the Friends of Pine Hawk. The Acton Historical Society holds all Pine Hawk artifacts. Bob will start the transfer process. Bob also mentioned that Acton resident Vinnie Vullo has some historical photos from the early 1900s of shanty towns created by immigrant laborers, mostly from southern Italy (Sicily and Calabria), who came to this area looking for work, including the Maynard mill buildings and the standpipe on Great Hill. Bob will forward to the AHS also. .

**3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – 40 High Street plans reviewed. BR will inform BD if a letter of support is needed from the Historical Commission.

**4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road** - no update.

**5. Status of converting CRL to MACRIS** – BR still working to resolve discrepancies between MACRIS and CRL where a barn is part of the CRL property listing but is not clearly identified on MACRIS listing. If the building department is only using MACRIS to identify properties, they will miss many CRL barns which could be demolished without proper HC review. BR has learned from MHC that a separate inventory or area form will need to be created for the barn.

There are about 50 such cases that need to be added to the GIS. BD will inform the building department and BR will contact MHC to work on solutions.

**6. Under demo delay:** none.

**7. Historical Plaque Applications:** none

**8. National Register application & CPC Application for Woodlawn Cemetery:** BD will present the consultant funding request for \$14K for the National Register application to the CPC on 1/23/24 in Room 9 of Town Hall.

**9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update** - BD was unable to meet with Mike Gendron and Cory York but hopes to do so soon.

**10. Acton 250 Committee update** – Professor Joe Adelman will be giving a lecture in Room 204 on Tuesday, January 30 on “Revolution in the News”. The next lecture will be on April 2 by John Bell, author of “The Road to Concord: How Four Stolen Cannon Ignited the Revolutionary War”

**11. Archeological By-Law implementation** – there has been no test case yet. BK asked if there was anything like an inventory form for archaeological resources. BD will look for the HC access login for the special areas (non-public) on the archaeological sensitivity maps.

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

**1. Section 106 forms for Asa Parlin House** – HC was unable to help fill out this form and suggested that the town's consultant fill it out and submit.

**2. 46 Nashoba Road, listing mystery** – The new owners noted that they have an “old style” plaque with a 1907 date, most likely created by a prior homeowner. BK recounted that this was part of a 24 acre farm in his youth. No action required by Committee, but BD noted it would qualify for the CRL and the HC will look into adding it to the CRL in the future.

**3. Review sign maker ordering process changes** – BR noted that Meg Nichols, our plaque maker, has raised her rates and standardized the process with ordering just 3 times per year. BD made a motion to approve the new Nichols terms, BK seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Annual town report** – BD will do.

**5. Demo Delay By-Law presentation 2/6** – The MHC is offering a Zoom presentation “Bylaw to Action: Understanding Demolition Delay”.

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

**Adjournment:** VB moved, and BD seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 8:54 PM.

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

1. Minutes of December 13, 2023 meeting of the Historical Commission