



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2024, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR)

Guests: Michaela Moran, President of Ironwork Farms

Absent: none

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes from January 10 – VB moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. BK seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents' concerns - None

3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL? – None

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

5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures) – 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. BK gave an example of where the barn for the house at 108 Strawberry Hill Road is across the street and is not listed. There are about 50 such cases that need to be added to the GIS. WD has informed the building department that their reviews will miss these cases.

6. Under demo delay: none.

7. Historical Plaque Applications: no new applications. BR noted that people are comfortable with the new system of monthly bundling of plaque deliveries.

8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update: VB noted that the CPC deliberations on awards will start on 2/27. There are already more requests than funds available. The HC request of \$14K for the National Register application to the CPC is helped by

the fact that 10% of all funds awarded must go to historic projects.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update - BD will be meeting soon with Town officials (Mike Gendron and Cory York) discussing a proposal for this 4th Historic District.

The Select Board did not approve a proposed conservation restriction for Morrison Farm as presented by the Agricultural Committee. The CR is part of the overall concept for the Concord Road Historical Corridor. FA is looking to put together a group that would further the CR proposal that includes the agricultural committee, open space, and HC.

10. Acton 250 Committee update – The January 30 Acton 250 talk by Professor Joe Adelman on “Revolution in the News” was very well received. 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". Also, two more Acton Center tours have been scheduled for April 6 and April 12. The Acton 250 seems to have good momentum.

11. Archeological By-Law (sensitivity maps) - There has been no test case yet. BR updated the HC Town web page to add the bylaw to the “Resources” list.

BD attempted to log in to the non-public special GIS account to access special sensitivity maps and non-public Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) information, but a parameter was incorrect. He will try again next meeting.

II. New/Special Business - None

- 1. Iron Work Farm grant presentation** – Michaela Moran reviewed the chimney repair proposal for the Faulkner House. This repair work should best be done so the mortar sets well by fall. The oldest chimney dates to 1707. BD made a motion to support the repair work, BK seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. BD will send a letter of support to MHC.
- 2. Demo Delay Feb 26 Zoom presentation summary** – Several HC members (BD, KD, BF, VB, BR) viewed this MHC presentation. The consensus was that We are doing a good job and that there was not a lot new to learn from the zoom. A recording is now available on [MAPC's website](#).
- 3. Annual town report due 2/26** – BD will be doing this.
- 4. Advisory member to Habitat for All**– Kaila Sauer of Acton's Planning Department sent out an announcement for representatives to the new Habitat for All committee. BD explained that this is the Town group that will be looking at ecologically friendly rezoning and the Historical Commission can send a representative. Any HC member interested in serving can let BD know.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BD seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:00 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of January 10, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission