



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes November 13, 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), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR),

Guests: Suzanne Kavanagh (SK), John Pawlak (JP), Mary Hess (MH), Rachel Shulman (RS) attending for 37-39 Nagog Hill Rd hearing. Will Vallely (WV), Ulrika Shepardson (US), Lorena Scatamacchia (LS), Jason Bowers (JB) attending for 149 Central discussion. Kerri Darcy (KD) attending for Library discussion.

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

I. Regular Business

1. **Review of meeting minutes October 16** – VB moved to approve the minutes of the October 11 meeting. BK seconded and 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** – BD hopes to get proposals from structural engineer and landscaper soon.
5. **Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures)** – None.
6. **Under demo delay:** None.
7. **Historical Plaque Applications:** No new applications.
8. **Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery update:** CPC funding has been approved. BD will send out requests for quotes to possible vendors to prepare the Woodlawn Cemetery National Register Application after Thanksgiving.
9. **Concord Road Historical Corridor update:** BD to talk with Olivia Barksdale.
10. **Acton 250 Committee update:** BF and BK reported on recent events, including a packed house lecture by Prof. Malcolm Purinton yesterday, and a very successful inaugural South Acton tour on November 9. At least one event is now scheduled every

month through next April. All the past and planned upcoming Acton 250 events are posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

11. New Historic Sign Maker. VB visited Bill Crosby's Concord shop but he wasn't there. She will try again.

12. Process for initiating a demolition delay hearing. BR has asked to be trained on the new on-line OpenGov application that the Planning Dept is adopting. BD is seeking to have the Demo Delay application and process much more visible *before* the Building Permit application process so there are fewer "surprises". BR and BD will try to schedule a meeting with Kristin Guichard to discuss options.

II. New/Special Business

1. **8:00 - Demolition Delay Hearing 37-39 Nagog Hill Road.** SK presented the details of the plans and what she and JP are trying to accomplish at 37-39 Nagog Hill Road. BD recused himself at this point and BK assumed the role of chair. BR read a supportive letter from a neighbor at 497 Main St. Neighbors MH and RS also voiced support for the project. BK made a motion and VB seconded to not impose a Demo Delay on this project. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Presentation on Hapgood Farmhouse restoration, 149 Central St.** WV explained the purpose of the project for the Infant Toddler Children's Center and history of the people who have lived in the farmhouse. US described the history of the Center. Architect JB reviewed the restoration plans. The property is just outside the West Acton Historic District, but the ITCC team has incorporated feedback from the HDC. The ITC people would like a support letter for their CPC funding request for envelope repairs to the farmhouse. BD made a motion to write a letter of support to the CPC. BK seconded, passed unanimously. BD will write the letter.
3. **Library request for HC support of their CPC application for archive funding.** KD described the Acton Memorial Library's situation with respect to preservation of historic collections. She asked for support for the Library's CDC request to start the first step of a four step process, to hire a preservation specialist to provide an preservation assessment report to guide their efforts. BD made a motion to write a letter of support, BF seconded, and it passed unanimously. BD will write the letter.
4. **November Demo Hearing on 115 River Street (schedule site visit).** A site visit was tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 2 at 9AM.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: BD moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:55 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of October 16, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission
2. Plans for 37-39 Nagog Hill Road
3. Plans for Hapgood Farmhouse restoration at 149 Central St.
4. Slides-- Preserving Acton's History - Acton Memorial Library"