



ACTON HISTORICALCOMMISSION

Meeting Minutes April 9, 2025, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

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

Guests: Carolyn Read (CR)

Absent: Ken Dow (KD), Bill Klauer (BK)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes March 12** – VB moved to approve the minutes of the March 12 meeting. BD seconded 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 sent BR RFPs for structural engineers and another for landscape architects. BR will create a cover letter for BD to attach and send out with the RFPs.
- 5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures):** nothing new
- 6. Under demo delay:** none.
- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** 207 Central St. requested a plaque. The group recommended that Bill Klauer be consulted at the next meeting. It is not clear whether J. A. Barrett is the architect or first owner.
- 8. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery:** BD will review BR's draft RFP based on an application for the Forest Cemetery in North Acton. The Committee has recommended several CRM/Archaeology firms who should receive the RFP. BR and BD will send it to at least 3 firms.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update: no update.

10. Acton 250 Committee update: BF noted that historian John L. Bell gave a very well-attended talk on March 31 called "Spies of 1775". On April 16 there will a party honoring the Acton Minute Men at the Discovery Museum. The Acton 250 Committee will be offering events less frequently, likely just one per quarter through the coming year. All the past and near-term upcoming Acton 250 events are posted at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

11. Historic marker sign maker search. The HC still has to review the sample Asa Parlin/17 Woodbury Lane house sign.

12. Process for initiating demolition delay hearings. BR offered to write an article in the Municipal Monthly explaining the demo delay process and encouraging applicants to discuss preliminary plans with the HC. Ultimately, the HC would like to have this explanation adapted for use on the Town web site.

13. Underground railroad site outreach. The HC approved BR's letter to send to the property owners of the underground railroad sites asking if the owner would have an interest in a historic marker on the property. BR was asked to send the letter.

II. New/Special Business:

- 1. 416 Great Road renovation– Habitat for Humanity:** CR shared the proposed changes to the floor plans for allowing the main house at 416 Great Road – the former Le Lyonnais Restaurant - to be increased to 3 residential units. No major changes are planned. BD recommended to come back next meeting once elevations are complete.
- 2. Mass DOT safety improvements on Route 2A:** This involved 3 intersection locations on Great Road, including Harris Street, Davis Road, and Concord Road. No comments will be submitted.
- 3. Special Permit review – 60 Powder Mill Road:** This address was determined not to be on the CRL.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BF seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:20PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

-Minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting of the Acton Historical Commission