

Historic District Commission
Town Hall, Room 126
Meeting Minutes, 22 May 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM. Attending: David Honn (DH) Anita Rogers (AR), Ron Regan (RR), Fran Arsenault (FA), Maria Crowley (MC) and John Benson (JB) Selectmen Representative. David Shoemaker (DS) absent.

7:30 pm **Citizen's questions** – Michaela Moran had questions pertaining to 34 School St. particularly relating to repairs and fixes to meet building codes for some repairs. Front stairs need a hand rail, AR – for three or more steps you need a hand-rail, for 30" or higher you also need a guard rail (balusters to keep someone from falling through.) You probably only need a hand rail and using wrought iron would have minimal visual impact. Also want to remove one chimney that isn't being used now. DH – you can remove it on the inside and build a platform to support the part above the roof. Alternatively on Mass Ave just outside West Acton center heading west we approved a “fake” chimney top added using veneer brick.

7:45 Minutes for April 24th approved unanimously.

7:46 Project spreadsheet review: There was a numbering problem with our applications where some numbers were reused. To fix this, 584 Mass Ave previously numbered as 1811 will now be 1814. 81 River St. previously numbered 1809 will now be 1812. 270 Central will be 1813.

JB is introduced to the commission members and DH went over the application process.

7:56 **270 Central St.** – Application 1813 – Amy Molchan not present. Discussion of decorative top of front facing fencing, diamond/diagonal vs. square lattice. RR and MC have no preference. AR prefers square orientation. RR – could they take diagonal lattice and just orient it 45 degrees so that it is square? AR sure. DH – prefer a larger hole square lattice. AR – they could buy a topper from a company like Walpole. FA makes a motion – 6 foot dog-eared picket fence sides and back pressure-treated lumber unfinished. Front will have 4' solid board and 2' topper square lattice made of cedar and painted or stained. Exposed

hardware to be black. RR seconded – approved unanimous pending abutters notices.

8:10 **Historic District Boundary Signs** – a DS special project. DS reviewed where the signs are, what condition and if any are missing. There are 5 signs, but there probably should be 13. We don't know how much the cost or who made them when originally installed. FA – we could talk to Crosby in West Concord. We could also talk to the H.C. about the guy that makes the historic plaques. FA will look into the cost of making the signs. They are one-sided white with black lettering.

8:25 **Newsletter** – MC has a meeting coming up soon with Frank and Matt (the IT guy) to discuss the newsletter and wants ideas on content and format to bring to the meeting. DH gives an overview for JB. Do we want something on the website, like a web page or pdf document, or are we going to mail out a paper version. We could send out a post card to residents pointing to the web version. FA – electronic version is “cool” – either another page on our site or linked pdf document. DH – we may be able to get a link from the Acton home page every few months. What about a “What is this?” game like the water district puts in their newsletter?

Between now and the next meeting lets think about ideas for content. Send them to DH before the next meeting.

8:58 Chair Update. Nothing from Dan Parazzo, DH mailed a certified letter including the Acton Bylaws for the historic districts to the Veo's explaining that we need more information about the plans for the 25-27 School Street site before we would consider demolition of any of the buildings, and that they should split each address into separate applications to simplify moving forward.

SAV parking – JB gave details on pursuing a deal with Gordon Richards, but nothing has been finalized yet.

53 River St. RR and DH attended meeting. No designs presented at this meeting. Overview of goals and ideas. Forum for input from attendees.

90 School St. applicant was a no-show, meeting moved to June 4th. Letter was sent to the ZBA with HDC concerns for the proposed plan as it abuts the district.

DH to get back to the RFP for district research/zoning.

MC – The abutters notices have text about a form to fill out to ask for a public hearing, but there isn't a form. RR – I added a form to the ones I send out, I will forward it to you.

9:10 Meeting adjourned.