



Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

6/6/2019

7:30 PM

Room 126, Town Hall, 472 Main St, Acton, MA 01720

Present: David Honn (DH), Anita Rogers (AR), Ron Regan (RR), Fran Arsenault (FA), Art Leavens (AL).

Absent: David Shoemaker (DS), Maria Crowley (MC), Dean Charter (DC) BOS liaison.

1. Opening

Chair David Honn opened the meeting at 7:34 pm.

2. Regular Business

- A. Citizen's Concerns – RR asked for an appointment at next meeting. The next meeting will go back to the regular schedule and be on the fourth Tuesday, which is June 25th.
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes – RR made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the meetings of June 6th, AR seconded, motion approved unanimously.
- C. Review Project Tracking Spreadsheet – no new applications.
- D. Chair's update –
 1. David Veo reached out to tell DH that they will be selling the property, but wants to fix up the apartments on the inside before selling. DH met a couple of weeks ago about the properties from 3 to 27 School Street and the owner of 9 may be interested in buying 27.
 2. MC will work on a letter with Bill Dickinson of the Historic Commission to write a combined letter relating to the 4 piper lane project and its negative impact to the neighborhood. The project is in limbo due to a waiting period.
 3. DH wants to discuss with DC making AL a full member and removing Allison as she left the town over a year ago and is no longer on the committee.

3. New/Special Business [or other applicable agenda items]

A. Meeting with the Friends of Gardener Field

Paul Swydan, Shelley Moore, Shelly Stuart, and Nate Ogdahl of the Friends of Gardener Field present. The group gave an overview of the goals of what the group wants to accomplish: update the playground equipment for safety and accessibility – follow universal design to be accessible for all ages and abilities; preserve green space, add trees to give more shade; increase visibility to Mass Ave and businesses across the street; new location for farmers market. DH – I'm not familiar with the park; you will need to present in a very unassuming way: this is West Acton, this is where the park is, include lots of



context. RR – important things to the HDC will be lighting, materials of equipment, buffer space from the street. Will you have a basketball court? There is a paved area with a basket now. FA – the Octoberfest happens there now, enthusiastic to see it improved. AL – Is the park owned by the state or town? Is any part of it managed by the state? According to the town this park is owned by the town, so no state involvement.

You should be able to apply for CPC funds; you need to apply in November for a vote at the town meeting in April. You'll need to find friends politically, such as Green Acton and other committees related to land use. Please keep us up to date with periodic meetings ahead of submitting an application with thoughts and concerns.

No motion or voting.

B. Application 1817 Stairs and lights at 39 School St. by Frank Marenghi

There were issues with the railing on the River St. side entrance and with the lights at the doors and along the River St. side. Fran is liaison. The railings were already updated to have wooden balusters. Frank used a style of light similar to what was used at 43/45 School street, which has mission style. DH: you should use something relatively simple. The lights near the doors are small and should be a bit bigger. Paul noted that there isn't a lot of ceiling space above the door for a light. The low sconce on the River street side looks strange, use a bulkhead style light there and at the basement door in the back. Use a carriage style sconce with clear glass and a 40-60 watt incandescent light bulb. The lights with integrated LEDs don't look good. Send FA an email with the lights you pick and she can give you a yes or no. All the lights should have the same finish, black or bronze. Also paint the pressure treated wood of the stairs to match the house.

No motion or voting.

C. Application 1906 Replace Gutters at 3 Wood Lane by Carol and James Nagele

AL is the Liaison; Got better photos of location of gutters and photos of gutter face and section profile. One downspout is original and round, one is newer and rectangle: the applicant would like to use the existing if possible. AL makes a motion – installation of new fiberglass gutters, color to match trim, using existing downspouts if possible: if downspouts need to be replaced they will be replaced with round ones. Seconded by RR, motion approved 4-0.

4. Adjournment

At 9:05 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of June 6th, 2019; and
- Application 1906 and additional images