

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020
7:30 pm
Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bob Ferrara (BF), Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bill Klauer (BK), Jaye Oman (JO),

Absent: David Martin (BoS Liaison), Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- 1) Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the AHC's February 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 6-0.
- 2) Citizen Concerns: Anne Forbes and Tara Friedrich expressed concern about the Open Space Commission's conclusions about the Morrison Farm. They sense a lack of commitment for saving the farmhouse and encouraged the AHC to be more proactive in advocating for its preservation. There was a discussion about the future of the historic properties owned by the town since the town may be exempt from the demolition delay by-law. It was agreed that the AHC would compile a list of buildings owned by the town.
- 3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL: DH stated that he had reviewed the meeting agendas and hearings of the ZBA and did not recognize any historic properties for review.
- 4) PAL Associates – CRL to MACRIS Update: JO provided an update on PAL's work on the inventory forms. They have completed the 35 properties and 140 resources and JO will provide a final update at the next meeting.
- 5) Bridge Project between Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and TTT: BD is continuing to define and socialize the idea of a foot-bridge link between the Trail-Through-Time and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail by spanning the Nashoba Brook at the old Davis Road.

- 6) Archaeological By-Law Update: BF led a discussion on the elements constituting an archaeological by-law and the history of this initiative in Acton. He continues to socialize this among the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission, and other town employees. There were questions about whether it should be a stand-alone by-law, or a rule of an existing by-law. BF will draft an example of an archaeological rule for the next meeting

3. New/Special Business

- 1) Demolition Delay Hearing: 562 Main Street (8:00 pm): The hearing was held to discuss the walk-through and demolition proposal for renovating elements of 562 Main Street. The Commission voted 6-0 to not impose a demolition delay.
- 2) Demolition Delay Hearing: 183 Main Street (8:15 pm): Representatives from the Discovery Museum presented their proposal to demolish the building on their property at 183 Main Street to create more parking. Members of the Commission who attended a walk-through of the building, along with interested citizens and an abutter, discussed the demolition request. The Commission voted 4-1 (one abstention) to impose the demolition delay. The Commission offered to meet with the Discovery Museum in the fall should they wish to modify their plans.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment: At 9:28 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of February 2019