

ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2020
12:00 pm (noon)
Town Hall, Room 126

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Bob Ferrara (BF), Victoria Beyer (VB), Doug Herrick (DH), Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair), David Martin (DM) - (BoS Liaison),

Absent: Brad Maxwell (BM), Bill Klauer (BK), Jaye Oman (JO)

1. Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson opened the meeting at 12:09 p.m. and read the procedures and agreed-on policies the Town developed for these web-based Zoom meetings.

2. Regular Business

- 1) Approval of March Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the AHC’s March 2020, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously by a vote of 4-0.
- 2) Citizen Concerns: Anne Forbes expressed her concerns that the AHC had not been initially invited to submit comments on the Acton Housing Production Plan, and when later invited, did not have sufficient time to do so before the comment period expired.
- 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 unknown historic properties for review.
- 4) PAL Associates – CRL to MACRIS Update: Deferred until next meeting when JO could attend.
- 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. He continues to socialize this among the Board of Selectmen, the

Conservation Commission, and other town employees. Questions continue about whether it should be a stand-alone by-law, or a rule of an existing by-law, and what triggers would initiate the review.

3. New/Special Business

- 1) Screen Porch Demolition Request 74 Main Street: Based on a consensus that this add-on porch was not original, and its removal would not meet the 25% building exterior change threshold defined by the demolition by-law, it was determined that the AHC had no jurisdiction over this permit request. It voted 4-0 to draft a letter to the Building Department to not object to the demolition of the porch.
- 2) Comments on Acton's Housing Production Program: Based on the amount of time the Commission had to review the plan, the AHC was unable to make comments.
- 3) AHC Director Renewals for BK and BM. Both are up for renewal this year.
- 4) Create Demolition Delay Form. The Commission agreed to provide a form to assist with the processing of demolition delays. DH said he would review examples of forms that can be provided to the Building Dept. for their use.
- 5) Comments on Nagog Pond Water Treatment Plant: BF explained his involvement with the Friends of Pine Hawk and abutters of the proposed new Concord water plant on Nagog Pond. He led a discussion on the approved extension of the Concord special permits based on three conditions: 1) the permits will expire in 2022; 2) a communications plan between Concord and the neighbors will be developed to facilitate better coordination and engagement; and 3) an archaeological study of the exposed pond bottom will be undertaken during the draining (dewatering) of the area for the new intake pipe.
- 6) BoS Selectman Role – A discussion about the role, need for, and attendance record of our Board of Selectman liaison (David Martin) occurred.
- 7) Plaque Request 491 Main Street – Deferred until next meeting due to absence of BM.

4. Consent Items - None

5. Adjournment: At 1:40 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of March 2019