



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes April 13, 2022, 7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Bill Dickinson (BD) - Chair, Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Alissa Nicol (AN) - Clerk, Barb Rhines (BR) - Planning Division, Victoria Beyer (VB), Fran Arsenault (FA) - Select Board Liaison

Guests: Anne Forbes (AF), Thomas Buckborough, Joanne Bissetta (JB), Steve Long, Mark Licari, Anne Sterling, Deborah Sandock (DS), Joe Hebert (JH)

Absent: none

Opening

Chair Bill Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM, and read the procedures and agreed-on policies the Town developed for these web-based Zoom meetings. Now that the Mass. Legislature has extended the open meeting pandemic rules about using Zoom vs. in-person meetings, the AHC will continue with Zoom meetings indefinitely until there is consensus about returning to in-person meetings.

I. Regular Business

1) Approval of March Minutes – Meeting minutes from the AHC's March 9th meeting were reviewed; BF moved and VB seconded a motion to approve the minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

2) Citizen Concerns: none

3) Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL: none, but BK notes the commissioners should be alert to upcoming discussions on the MBTA Community zoning districts proposed to be created by the town to maintain eligibility for various state grants

4) Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road update: no update

5) Archaeological By-Law Update: BF reports that he and BD continue to meet with Planning staff; Public Forum was held on March 23rd for a handful of attendees; presentation was made to Select Board on 4/4, and answers to board members' queries were emailed; presentation will be made to Economic Development Committee; pre-Town Meeting video on the proposed bylaw to be recorded at Acton TV; waiting to hear about scheduling a presentation for Finance Committee; BR will create informational handout for Town Meeting; a final draft with changes to be sent to Select Board for inclusion in the final warrant.

6) 53 River Street Update - Andy Magee will present an update at May's meeting; draft of MOU was sent to MAHC for review, all permits have been submitted; these documents will be sent to AHC for review ahead of May meeting. On May 10th, HDC will host public hearing on partial removal of dam. Town Meeting on May 16th will vote on CPA appropriation for Shoddy Mill project.

II. New/Special Business

- 1) Demolition Delay review of 8 Church Street** - JB presented plans to renovate home, including the removal of one non-working chimney, enlarging one street-facing window, and removal of one window. Commissioners have no objections to project, finding that the proposed changes will have negligible impact to character of home and neighborhood; neighbors support project. DS suggests commissioners engage in outreach to property owners whose buildings are on CRL. BK moves and VB seconds a motion to allow the removal of one chimney, and vote passes unanimously 5-0.
- 2) Discuss proposed demolition of 27 Martin Street** - demolition request from Kim Amaral, executor of Jean Panetta estate, for Samuel Jones Jr house; commissioners agree hearing is required, and will schedule a site visit.
- 3) Discuss proposed renovation at 88 Prospect** - JH proposes the removal of a front (south side) portico in a maintenance/repair project; original home 1735; street/east facing asbestos shingles to be removed and replaced with clapboard; street was straightened/widened for sewer/water pipes, must be 45 feet from street, so plans will need to be altered or project will need to come before ZBA. BD suggests applicant reach out if ZBA permit is sought; HC can offer support for project.
- 4) Review/discuss HC - CRL outreach flyer** - commissioners review informational postcard created by BR to send to CRL property owners; CRL and MACRIS lists to be reconciled before postcard is sent out
- 5) Discuss implementation of the Demo Delay Bylaw** - following change to Demo Delay bylaw, where proposed alteration to significant architectural feature and/or more than 25% of one facade now triggers bylaw, projects come to HC more often with Chair

acting as gatekeeper; do we want to hold a hearing for all or should decision continue to be at discretion of the Chair? VB suggests Chair shouldn't be sole gatekeeper; BF appreciates informal discussion of projects; BK notes that passage of archaeological review bylaw will bring in additional projects to commission; AN suggests public hearing is ideal to ensure abutters have chance to weigh in; BD suggests that if alteration to significant architectural feature will bring project to commission and a decision can be made at monthly meeting if hearing is required or no.

- 6) **Discuss live vs zoom meetings** - commissioners decide, once again, to continue meeting via Zoom
- 7) **Review docushare and how it works for the HC** - as commissioners and public find easy access to documents helpful, BR will populate HC docushare with documents for meetings, such as MACRIS forms, notices, plans, abutter lists, etc.
- 8) **Looking for house plaque manufacturer** - FA has been in contact with an AB grad, Meg Nichols from m:ink; VB has another lead

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment

VB moved and BF seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 9:40 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of March 9, 2022
- Presentation - existing house at 8 Church Street and architectural rendering of renovation project per Joanne Bissetta
- Presentation - photos of 88 Prospect Street per Joe Hebert