



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2024, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Bill Klauer (BK), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR), Fran Arsenault – Select Board Liaison (FA)

Guests: James Hryniwich (JH)—Mascarli LLC

Absent: Bob Ferrara (BF)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes from April 11** – BD moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting. VB seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Residents' concerns** – None
- 3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – 40 High Street, previous comments have been noted. Plans have changed, and will take approximately 1 month to approve. To be reviewed at June HC meeting.
- 4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road** - No update.
- 5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures)** – BR began visiting sites over the last few months where a barn is part of the CRL property listing but is not clearly identified on MACRIS listing. She noted several are attached barns. She confirmed with Building Commissioner that an attached barn would be considered as a wing of the house.

Barns are beginning to be photographed by BR. BK suggested to BR to review 46 Parker Street which has a Barn only.

- 6. Under demo delay:** None.

- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** None

8. National Register application & CPC for Woodlawn Cemetery update: The HC request of \$14K for the National Register application was approved 5/7/24 at Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update – No updates. BD is still trying to meet with Town officials to discuss a proposal for this 4th Historic District. This meeting has been delayed due to the departure of Mike Gendron. Gendron replacement is being interviewed.

10. Acton 250 Committee update – BK reported that Acton 250 momentum continues to be very positive. A variety of Acton 250 merchandise is now becoming available. The Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250> is a good source of information. Group meets every other Fri—Field Trip plans are being discussed.

11. Archaeological By-Law (sensitivity maps) – BD showed BR how to log in to the non-public special GIS account to special Pre and Post-Contact archaeological sites. It was agreed that the 123 Quarry Road application (see below) is looking to be the first test case of the bylaw.

II. New/Special Business

- 1. Archaeological Assessment Application—123 Quarry Road – John Oliver Farm –** Plan reviewed with JH from Mascarli LLC. 4 lots are planned resulting in 1.8 acres disturbed exceeding 1 acre limit as defined in Archaeology By-Law. Within 35 days an Archaeologist will review site. Within 45d, HC holds a 2nd meeting to review findings. Within 14d, a written decision is sent. A parcel of 7.289 acres, which abuts NARA Park, is planned to be given to the Boy Scouts. This parcel contains remnants of structure (chimney, etc). VB moved for Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment to move forward, BK seconded with unanimous approval. BD will work with BF to secure an Archaeologist (David, Kimberly, or PAL) to review site and provide a report for the next HC meeting in June. FA will announce to Select Board.
- 2. Archaeological Assessment Application—738 Main Street.** Waiting for application to be submitted. . .
- 3. Letter of Support to MHC for 17 Woodbury Lane—** BR is working with Architect and MHC. Grant/ Funding to be reviewed, MACRIS and HD forms have been created. BD to provide a Letter of Support asap.
- 4. Replacement plaque for Women’s Club.** Women’s Club and HC do not feel sign is acceptable as presented, biggest complaint is waviness of text and scale with “year” only. Meg Nichols from Painted Lady Sign Co. at this time is not willing to remake sign for no charge. Questions around who pays for a new sign?? (Funds are not allowed) BK suggested adding “Built In”. Request a new Proof from Meg for approval along with Font Sample.
- 5. Historical Plaque typefaces for future Signs--** BR and VB to review acceptable fonts. Additional vendors discussed-- Crosby Signs who does Concord signs; Duval Sign from Boxborough.
- 6. Discuss “Demolition by Neglect” for Acton—** Decided no further action needed by HC.

7. **Planning Board Email Review**—KD will review Planning Board emails sent for HC impacts which may include CRL, Development greater than 1 acre for Sensitivity Area, Stone Walls, etc.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:29 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of April 11, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission