



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes December 11, 2024, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

Present: Bill Dickinson - Chair (BD), Victoria Beyer (VB), Ken Dow (KD), Bob Ferrara (BF), Bill Klauer (BK), Barb Rhines - Cultural Resources Planner (BR),

Guests: Jay Rashbaum (JR), Patricia Rashbaum (PR), Adria Osborn (AO), David Bamforth (DB), Chris Chan-Tse (CC)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes November 13** – BD moved to approve the minutes of the November 13 meeting. BK seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Residents' concerns** – None.
- 3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL?** – None
- 4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road** – BD will put out an RFP to structural engineers and landscape architects this month.
- 5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures):** None.
- 6. Under demo delay:** None.
- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** No new applications.
- 8. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery:** BD will send out RFP for consultants for quotes to possible vendors to prepare the Woodlawn Cemetery National Register Application. BK noted this area may be needed by Acton as a port for processed sewage.
- 9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update:** Not a lot of activity.
- 10. Acton 250 Committee update:** BF and BK reported on events. There have now been 10 lectures and four more are scheduled for 2025. The 250 Committee is planning an open community event for Thursday April 17, 2025 since the usual Concord activities are still uncertain. All the past and near term upcoming Acton 250 events are posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

11. New Historic Sign Maker. VB visited Bill Crosby's West Concord shop and described his typical mode of business. He is very flexible. VB suggested 5-6 signs per year and hoping for a very modest price. BD asked if he could produce a sample, so VB will request a sample sign for 17 Woodbury Lane, BR will determine the exact wording and typeface.

12. Process for initiating a demolition delay hearing. BD will try to schedule a meeting with Kristin Guichard to discuss options.

II. New/Special Business

1. **8:00PM - Demolition Delay Hearing 115 River Street.** DB and CC outlined the recent history. The original plans to renovate the house from a year ago proved to be cost-prohibitive, so the revised request now is to demolish the house and the adjacent garage. The HC Committee visited the site on December 2 and all agreed the house is in difficult shape. Abutters JR and AO preferred that the house be maintained. DB noted that nothing could be built on the property if this house is demolished. PR expressed that this was a memento of Acton's industrial past on this section of River Street. VB noted that the owners have done due diligence to try to save the house, so VB moved and BK seconded a motion to not impose a Demo Delay on the demolition of the house on 115 River Street. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Approval Letters.** BD will do approval letters for 1) fire engine restoration, 2) Acton Center Library for a preservation specialist, and 3) for the Infant Toddler at 149 Central Street to remove vinyl siding and window and chimney repair.
3. **Recognition of John Oliver house site.** BF noted that in his November 20 talk "A Day in the Life of Local Archaeologist", David Gutbrod mentioned the importance of John Oliver in Acton history. Archaeologist Gutbrod produced the preliminary archaeological assessment for a proposed 123 Quarry Road development last summer and noted the Oliver house site was nearby. BK noted there is no MACRIS area form for the Oliver house site. BF was asked to obtain a quote from Mr. Gutbrod to produce an area form.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: BK moved, and KD seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:25 PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

1. Minutes of November 13, 2024 meeting of the Historical Commission
2. Additional materials can be found here [<http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-2961>]