



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

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

Guests: Raj Dudani, Shikha Malhotra, Sunil Polineni regarding the 54 Great Road discussion. Aaron Bradford, Cynthia First, and Mehoi Khaladi for the 358B Great Road discussion.

Absent: none

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

I. Regular Business

- 1. Review of meeting minutes January 8** – BD moved to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting. KD 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 asked BR to help on putting out an RFP for structural engineers and another for landscape architects. BR will see if there is a template or form in the Planning Dept for this.
- 5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures):** Nothing new.
- 6. Under demo delay:** None.
- 7. Historical Plaque Applications:** No new applications.
- 8. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery:** BR will look for an RFP template to send to vendors to prepare the Woodlawn Cemetery National Register Application.
- 9. Concord Road Historical Corridor update:** BD noted a Concord Road Historical District would add another layer of protection to the area and specifically the Morrison

Farm structures which are not protected right now. There was sentiment for “marketing” the special character of this corridor.

10. Acton 250 Committee update: BF and BK shared that there are 3 more talks and 2 South Acton tours planned prior to April 19. Acton 250 chair Steve Trimble is seeking to have a Town Celebration on April 16 or 17, likely at the Acton Congregational Church. All the past and near-term upcoming Acton 250 events are posted on the Town web page at <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

11. Historic marker sign maker search. BR was asked to contact Crosby Design in West Concord to produce a sample plaque for the Asa Parlin house.

12. Process for initiating a demolition delay hearing. BR will schedule a Wednesday or Thursday meeting with Kristin Guichard so BR and BD can discuss options.

II. New/Special Business

1. 8:00 Demolition Delay Hearing for 358B Great Road. Several HC members did a walk-through on February 4. BD noted there is little of the historic building that remains. BK noted the building has been moved twice, from Kelley’s Corner and then from Woodvale to the current location. VB moved that a demolition delay not be imposed on 358B Great Road. BK seconded. Passed unanimously. BD will write the decision and forward to the Building Dept.

2. 54 Great Road proposal discussion. The owners requested an informal discussion with the HC and are proposing the removal of the current historical building and constructing a new 3-4 unit residential building. No design drawings were presented. BD informed the owners that they would need to present design drawings if they would like the commission to waive the potential 18-month demolition delay on the property. BD strongly suggested that they reuse the existing structure in their proposal. BD also suggested that they contact Planning for more information on the process of developing the site.

3. Town Report due 2/28. BD will draft the report.

4. Discuss opportunities for highlighting underground railroad sites. Several ideas were discussed, like letters to the homeowners. KD will draft a “did you know” letter to the homeowners. Maybe we could develop a special plaque. BR will pull the MACRIS forms for the 9 sites.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: VB moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:18PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting. Minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting of the Historical Commission