



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes July 9, 2025, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

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

Guests: Anne Forbes (AF), Alexander Rudat (AR), Caroline Hamilton (CH), Dean Charter (DC)

Absent: Bob Ferrara (BF), Victoria Beyer (VB)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes June 11 – BD moved to approve the minutes of the June 11 meeting. KD seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Residents' concerns – AF sent note of appreciation to MHC regarding edits completed by MHC citing her as a significant source in Daniel Zoto's updated Area Form on 53 River St. He added new map sketch and photos. AF noted that AHC should be part of the review process when edits are done to Form A, Area Forms.

3. Any ZBA/Planning Board projects on the CRL? – none

4. Bridge project between Rail Trail and TTT at old Davis Road – BD sent BR RFPs for structural engineers and another for landscape architects. BR to provide cover letter to BD for review. BD prefers vendor respond to BR directly by email. BD to provide names of structural engineer and landscape architect companies to BR to receive package. Procedure should be the same as the Woodlawn Cemetery RFP.

5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures): -- none. Addresses need to be reviewed and confirmed.

6. Archeological Review Applications -- none

7. Under demo delay: 457 Mass Ave and 54 Great Rd. Assignments to HC members for check-up will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

8. Historical Plaque Applications : 422 Central St. was applied for by AR and CH. CH is a historian and found through research Hapgood lived on the 110 acre farm property some 50 years. Simon Blanchard lived at their home which was built in 1890. BD moved to have the sign read Simon Blanchard 1890, KD seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The owners wish to place the sign to the right of the original door, the door is located on the front elevation to the left and under the porch. HC will review any further research by CH which would result in updating the inventory form at MHC.

9. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery: The Committee has recommended several CRM/Archaeology firms who will receive the RFP. 4 firm names will be sent. Submission will be done via Mail/ Email to HC and Town Hall. \$12,500 amount from CPC to be verified. RFP is approved by AHC and is being reviewed by Andrea in the Town Planning Dept.

10. Concord Road Historical Corridor update: -- none

11. Acton 250 Committee update: The Acton 250 Committee will be offering events less frequently, likely just one per quarter through the coming year, through to Sept. A celebration being planned near 7/4/2026 likely to be held at the Discovery Museum. Refer to <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

12. Historic marker sign maker search. The HC has reviewed the electronic sample Asa Parlin/17 Woodbury Lane house sign by Crosby Design. Semi-Bold font chosen to help better achieve readability from the street. Black screws to be used for mounting vs brass. BD moved to approve Crosby Design as vendor for HC sign making. BK seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Research has been provided to AHC by Larry Sorley which indicates the proper name on the sign should be Asaph Parlin vs Asa Parlin.

13. Process for initiating demolition delay hearings. Per the By Law, Demolition Delay hearings must be triggered by an application from the owner to the Building Department for a Demolition Permit. Owners are encouraged to come before the HC to informally discuss their project during the design process and inquire if a Demolition Delay Hearing is required. The HC website should be updated to more fully explain the process; BR will propose website language with a homeowner focus.

14. Underground Railroad Site Outreach. At the April meeting, the HC approved a BR letter to send to the property owners of the Underground Railroad sites asking if the owner would have an interest in a historic marker on the property. Letters were sent out by BR. 4 responses of interest have since been received: 162 Great Road, 144 Great Road, 15 Barker Road and 41 Estabrook Road. The HC asked BR to reach back out to the responders. MHC (Michael Steinitz) to be consulted by KD to see if there might be a recommended logo or format for a proposed sign. BD to reach out via the MHC's List Serve.

II. New/Special Business:

- 1. Town Boundary Monument Survey:** DC indicated Town Selectman are tasked with locating town boundary markers, accessing and painting every 5 years per adherence to MA General Laws. He attended the meeting to make HC aware and to see if there was interest in any members attending sessions. Also, questions arose for next steps, CPC funds were

suggested for replacement or repair work of damaged or missing markers. AF suggested creation of Group Inventory Form. Jim Snyder-Grant has spreadsheets, pictures, etc. available. 1906 Atlas form shows them. Town controlled Engineering Folder with some information is missing.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: BD moved, and BK seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:07PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

- Minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting of the Acton Historical Commission
- 422 Central St AHC Historical Sign Application and MACRIS Inventory Form
- Jim Snyder-Grant "Acton Bounds Monuments" email dated July 6, 2025