



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 10, 2025, 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Room 126

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

Guests: David Martin (DM), Anne Forbes (AF), Caroline Hamilton (CH)

Absent: Bill Klauer (BK), Fran Arsenault - Select Board Liaison (FA)

Chair BD called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

I. Regular Business

1. Review of meeting minutes July 9th - BD moved to approve the minutes of the July 9th meeting. BF 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 to review RFPs

5. Status of reconciling CRL to MACRIS (barn captures) : Barn inventory needs to be reviewed in MACRIS for accuracy.

6. Archeological Review Applications -- None

7. Under demo delay:

457 Mass Ave: No updates, assigned to KD for follow-up. BD will provide KD with contact information.

54 Great Rd: Review of plans to be made at next meeting with Architect, assigned to BF for follow-up.

8. Historical Plaque Applications : 12 Coughlin Street application was submitted by Ken and Donna Grinnell. Coughlin Street is a one-way street. BD motioned to have the marker on the main building which is the original house before additions added. HC approved the application. BR will confirm location with home owner and HDC.

BD recommended to remove the mention of HDC from the plaque application form. The HC will submit the application to HDC if required, this will not be the homeowner responsibility.

9. Consultant for National Register Application for Woodlawn Cemetery: BR is working with the town to issue the four RFPs.

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 will be planned near 7/4/2026 likely to be held at the Discovery Museum. Bob Allison to be giving a talk on 9/30 @ 7pm at the Town Hall, "Beyond the Bridge", Amy Cole to be doing some walking tours 9/20 and 9/27.

Refer to <https://www.actonma.gov/250>.

The 250 Committee is developing a legacy list of material that will be useful after they end in 2026.

12. Historic marker sign maker search.

Sample of Asaph Parlin marker from Crosby Design provided with carved letters at no additional cost. HC approved the sample sign from Crosby Design which included carved letters at no extra cost. For future plaque applications, Crosby Design will provide a proof for approval and invoice the customer directly. The cost is \$200, tax included.

13. Underground Railroad Site Outreach. 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. Historic Commission Website Update Regarding Demo Delay Process :** BR proposed an update to the HC Website. HC Demo Delay Process to be located adjacent to BD video. HC to read and review for next meeting.
- 2. Vote on Marker for 17 Woodbury Lane:** Research has been provided to AHC by Larry Sorli which indicates the proper name on the sign should be Asaph Parlin vs Asa Parlin.

BD moved to approve Asaph Parlin as official name to go on the marker for 17 Woodbury Lane. BF seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Provide a Continuation Sheet as needed so the MACRIS Inventory Sheet can be updated.

- 3. 53 River St Signage Text :** Four 3'x3' signs have been proposed. BR will email out proposed signs for review. AF and BK are to review for accuracy. Photo's are needed for the signs.

Sign 1- The Heart of South Acton Industry

Sign 2- The Shoddy Mill

Sign 3- Water Power & Innovation

Sign 4- Lives and Labor

DM gave an update of the 53 River Street project. Soil issues were found (arsenic and asbestos) which have been removed, Stone amphitheater created, Overlook rebuilt, Wheel House rebuilt, Stones placed to show building foundation. Yet to be done: Walkways, parking lot and landscaping.

4. **"My Local History" Services:** This business sent an email to see if there was interest with AHC for sign creations or video services. AHC will keep on file for future reference. Cost would be approximately \$300-\$375 for package (sign, video, etc.).
5. **New AHC Member Process:** CH has shown an interest in becoming a member. A form has been completed and a resume sent. She has been encouraged to keep attending meetings.

BD and BF have had their terms extended to June 30, 2028. BF has been sworn in.

III. Consent Items - None

Adjournment: BD moved, and BF seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously at 9:17PM.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting.

-Minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting of the Acton Historical Commission
-Grinnell Marker Application 09-01-2025