

Acton Historic District Commission  
May 19, 2008 –Meeting minutes



Tom Peterman, Scott Kutil, Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann, Ellie Halsey, David Honn, Anne Forbes and Aaron Moore in attendance. Brian Bendig and Terra Friedrichs were absent. Michaela Moran joined the meeting at 8:30pm.

Minutes from the 4/22 and 5/5 meetings were approved as amended. 3/27 minutes are still awaiting approval.

Communications have been received from Nina Overall about her ideas for a historic plaque program, and on the upcoming meeting on the Comprehensive Community Planning effort on 5/31. Several commission members plan to attend.

#0807-34 School St.- In the anticipated absence of the applicant, and based on the available submitted information, motion to approve, with several findings and on conditions: valleys cut, ridge vent low in profile, shingled, and extended to gable ends; Timberline 30 year natural shadow, or a three tab shingle, with a recommendation that the shingle color be slate. Motion approved, subject to abutter notification. Vote: seven in favor, one abstention. Applicant Karl Mceewitz joined the meeting after 9:00pm. and presented some additional information. As a result, the Commission tabled the previous vote and requested addresses of examples of the shingle proposed. KM would like to use the 50 year Timberline "Prestique" shingle. HDC will take amended vote at 7:45 pm 6/02/08 after visiting addresses provided by contractor. In an additional discussion, KM said he has asked the highway dept. for a cross walk on School St. at the church. He's asked the commission for help in getting one placed there.

#0805-52 School Street: South Acton fire station guard rail, Dean Charter. DC stated that there is not a huge differential in price for the various types of fencing proposed. Closest point is 135 feet from the street. Abutter notification period has expired. TP and DH noted that the Cor-10 would stand up better to the plows, and the color would blend. TP moved to approve with the finding: color like wood with minimal visual impact at the distance from the public way, SK seconded, motion carried unanimously.

DC reported that the W. Acton fire station generator has been repainted dark green and a couple of cedars have been planted in front of it. At the same time, a couple of red cedars have been planted in front of the generator beside the library, as a start to screen the unit from the public way.

Commission members asked Dean for feedback on placing the remaining district boundary signs in the public right-of-way on Mass. Ave., which is part of a state route. He suggested that if they are placed behind the sidewalk they would probably be outside the state right-of-way. If that's not the case, then the office of the state senator or rep. could be helpful in obtaining permission from Mass. Highway.

81 River St.- Lou Levine and Ed? Bud Flannery , doors and windows for the single family homes in the easternmost portion of the property, east of the brook. Application #0809 for Jeld-wen windows with 7/8<sup>th</sup> inch muntin bars in a 6 over 6 SDL wood exterior window, like those approved at 550 Mass. Ave. Windows to be sized to fit the elevation as drawn. There is an option for 'historic' sills with this window. TP moved to approve window as submitted (6 over 6 wood exterior sash) with finding that the historic sill option and 7/8 muntin bar be used, second by EH. Additional finding that the rear slider shall be a Jeld-wen wood door. Motion carried unanimously.

#0810: Steel garage door in the same make and a similar model as that approved at 511 Main St.. Proposal is to paint the doors a dark color. TP noted that the findings allowing an approval of the steel door at 511 Main St. included the mention of the distance from the public way. DH noted that having no hardware would be preferable to the light weight hardware from the manufacturer. BF said they prefer to have a solid door without glass lights, but the style is of no consequence to them. TP voiced concern over the nearness of the door to the street. EH and KA-B suggested that the HDC members take a closer look at the Pell's doors. Vote deferred to 6/2.

#0811- Front doors to be painted fiberglass 4-panel door as used in Davis Place project. Style: Smooth-star Therma-tru. TP noted that the doors at Davis Place seemed to be acceptable when painted a dark color as they are hard to distinguish from wood. The hardware has not been selected yet but the intention is to use a thumb latch instead of a knob. TP moved to approve the door on the condition that it be painted, finding: new construction, not a replacement thus distinguishes the new construction from existing homes, EH seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

In a related discussion, DH and TP noted that from the way the framing looks on the house at 83 River Street, some of the fenestration is different from what was approved in the COA, and it also looks higher than in the submitted elevations. LL said that the building had to be raised 3-4 inches because of the height of the water table.

Request for public hearing for 6/16 meeting for Lothrop factory, Conservation Commission hearing 5/21/08 and request for a brief appointment on 6/2 as preliminary to the HDC public hearing. Public hearing set for June 16, 8:00 p.m. for the factory rehab. and parking structure, Application #0812.

43 Windsor Ave.: Stairs and railings #0803, with amendment for a stone retaining wall. Scott Kutil.- TP moved to approve the revised rail design as dated 5/19/08 in painted wood, with newel posts to match original, rail parts to match dimensions and material of original rails and balusters, EH seconded. Motioned carried unanimously. Stone wall of 14-16 feet and 18 inches high at back of property near proposed parking pad, design of wall to mimic that already on the property near the walkway (in the exhibit photo). Findings: wall will match that existing on the property. Motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10: 40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela Moran,  
Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michaela Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' at the beginning.