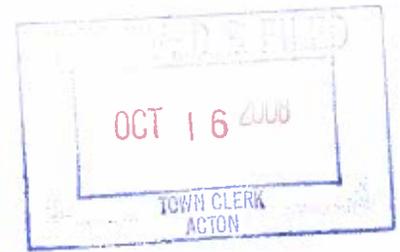


Acton Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes, 1/22/08



Kathryn Acerbo-Bachman, Ellie Halsey, Anne Forbes, Scott Kutil, Michaela Moran, and Brian Bendig were present. Aaron Moore and Tom Peterman were absent. David Honn and Terra Friedrichs, prospective members, also were in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm.

Minutes from the 1/7/08 meeting were approved as corrected.

81 River St. – It has been at least 3 weeks since the building collapse. The back of the building is open to the weather. The commission has been asked to write a letter asking the owners of record to stabilize and enclose the building since leaving it open will accelerate its deterioration. BB will send a memo to the owner/developer with a cc to the building department and the conservation commission.

8:00 pm. 5A Spruce St.-Sweet Bites, Caitlin Adler and Chris Vuich. Sign violations meeting. BB proposed that the 8 x 2.5' sign on Spruce St. be retained and either moved or remain at the present location, and the larger sign be removed. CA noted that the building commissioner gave approval for the signs as presented to him by the sign maker (Fast Signs) without coordinating the dimensions approved by the HDC. However, it was pointed out that the Building Dept. sign license also requires that the signs must conform to the terms of the Certificate of Appropriateness, which gave approval for smaller signs than the two that have been installed. CA indicated that she did not have the means to move the signs presently. Various members discussed the need to cure the violations consistent with the economic circumstances faced by the business operators. BB will send CA a letter indicating that the commission will not take any action for 6 months so that the problem can be rectified. CA was agreeable to curing the violations under this protocol.

8:30 pm Laura Mason, Town IT Department, re HDC **web upgrades**. HDC would like to post a flow chart of the application process to guide applicants, to have a frequently asked questions page, a timeline for applications and certificates, and a downloadable application form, with instructions. LM will post what we send her when she returns to work after 1/29/08. BB plans to make the flow chart and some of the introductory language. BB to send her various items.

Membership

David Honn submitted an application which was not received by the VCC. DH will complete another application and send it to BB who will forward it to Dore Hunter. Both David's and Terra's applications are to be pushed for prompt processing.

HDC contribution to the Annual **Town Report** has been filed.

CPC report

AF noted that while she did not attend the last CPC meeting, the CPC did discuss the Exchange Hall project extensively. It seems members of the Fincom have a problem using public funds to bolster a private project. The main question is: will the public benefit of restoring Exchange Hall be justified? And can the Town be assured that the rehab. project will go forward if town money is committed?

Traffic engineers report on Main St/Hayward Rd. is likely to have impact on Newtown Rd. and Concord Rd. will be given to the selectmen on 8pm Monday, 1/28/08. BB plans to attend that meeting.

Towne Building

Maugel architects are on board with the organization developing the project. Many grants and other financing options are in the works.

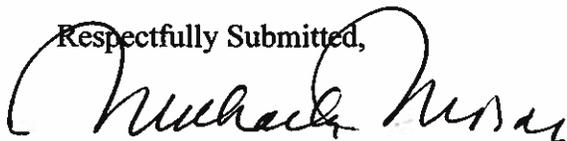
Community Outreach for Comprehensive Planning

KAB, AF, and TF reported on attending the kick-off meeting for this comprehensive community planning project, which will update the Town's master plan. They stressed the importance of having advocates for historic preservation be closely involved in the process, and are presently reviewing the meeting notes. A Selectmen-appointed Steering Committee is being formed. The next meeting date is undetermined.

Water Resources committee: Terra urged that there be an HDC representative on the water resources committee, which will be looking closely at the question of sewers for West Acton and elsewhere in town.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm. next meeting 2/4/08.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michaela Moran".

Michaela Moran,
Secretary