FYI

Planning Board

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DECISION
09-05

Scenic Road Hearing
Removal of Stone Wall and Public Shade Tree at 24-46 High Street

August 4, 2009

Decision of the Acton Planning Board on the Town of Acton's proposal to remove a stone wall along High Street between the Audubon Hill access driveway at approximately 24 High Street to house #46 High Street, a distance of +/-440 feet; and to remove a public shade tree, a 24-inch DBH Oak, in front of 30 High Street. The work is in connection with the proposed construction of a sidewalk along this stretch of High Street. High Street is a scenic road under Chapter J of the Town of Acton Bylaws. A public hearing was duly advertised for August 4, 2009. Board members Gregory E. Niemyski (Chairman), Ryan J. Bettez, Roland A. Bourdon, III, Jeff Clymer, Ruth M. Martin, Bruce Reichlen, Ray S. Yacouby, and associate members Leigh Davis-Honn and Margaret Woolley-Busse attended. Corey S. York, of the Town Engineering Department represented the Town. Dean Charter, Town of Acton Tree Warden also attended. The hearing minutes and documentation on the subject matter may be viewed in the Planning Department or the Town Clerk's office at the Acton Town Hall.

1 EXHIBITS

Submitted for the Board's deliberation were the following exhibits:

1.1 Legal notices.

1.2 Letter from Mr. Stamski, Town Engineer, dated June 29, 2009.

1.3 Photo depicting existing stone wall in front of 30 High Street.

1.4 A draft construction plan (one sheet), Acton Engineering Department, January 5, 2008.

1.5 A draft construction plan (one sheet), Acton Engineering Department, January 5, 2008, revised January 23, 2009.

1.6 A draft construction plan (two sheets – S-1 and S-1A), Dankers Structural Consulting LLC, May 18, 2009.

2 FINDINGS and CONCLUSIONS

After review of the exhibits and the hearing of the matter the Board finds and concludes that:

2.1 A sidewalk is a necessary public safety improvement on High Street.

2.2 The topography at the subject location requires the proposed wall and tree removal in order to properly install the sidewalk.

2.3 The construction plans indicate replacement plantings and a new stone or stone-faced retaining wall behind the newly constructed sidewalk.

2.4 The proposed work does not derogate from the purpose of High Street's designation as a scenic road.

3 PLANNING BOARD ACTION

The Board consents to the stone wall and tree removal as proposed.

Signed on behalf of the Acton Planning Board
Roland Bartl, AICP, Planning Director

Copies furnished:
Town Engineer
Tree Warden
Historical Commission
Town Clerk
Town Manager

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