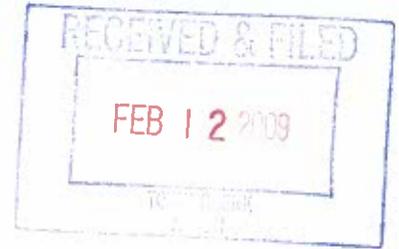




MASSACHUSETTS 01720



ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2009
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 121

AHC Members Present: Peter Grover, chair (PG), Bill Klauer, Victoria Beyer, Kimberley Connors-Hughes (KCH), Bill Dickinson (BD), Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. PG called the meeting to order and minutes from November 2008 and December 2008 meetings were reviewed and approved.
2. The first topic discussed was the the ultimate details and changes for its CPC funding requests this year, and in particular, the funding request for preservation work at 3 cemeteries in Acton, and KCH will prepare and send MHC an eligibility statement for the third (two already done).
3. Next followed a discussion of the proposed archaeological resources bylaw, with a focused applicability in terms of type of development, undeveloped land, and sensitivity zones. BD will prepare a framework and BM will craft the legal wording of the bylaw based on the current demolition delay bylaw. PG will prepare the legal notice for a public hearing to discuss the proposed bylaw.
4. Next discussed were updates on efforts to preserve the Wright-Holden Farmhouse (WHF). Also in attendance and participating in this discussion were Anne Forbes (AF), Karle Packard (KP) and Tom O'Neill.
 - a. KP and BD discussed the visual materials prepared to illustrate how the potential uses would fit in the existing interior space at the WHF. The group discussed the proper recipients for these materials, including representatives from the Department of Corrections, state legislators, Al Collins, the Preservation Mass “circuit rider” (Anne Dodge), etc.
 - b. AF explained the message received from Preservation Mass regarding possible funding/grant options. The group supported the idea of inviting Anne Dodge to a subsequent meeting, and AF agreed to check to see if she would be available to attend the March group meeting. KCH agreed to review the grant applications to see whether it is possible to apply this year.
 - c. KCH noted that she is submitting the publicity article to local Acton and Concord newspapers to get word out about the preservation effort. AF noted that it will be important to differentiate from the Exchange Hall preservation effort in upcoming publicity.

- d. BM discussed his recent meeting with the Acton Historical Society's Board of Directors regarding the possibility of being the 501(c)(3) sponsor for the WHF fund collection efforts. In light of the hesitant approach taken by the Historical Society, the group concluded that it might be worth contacting the Shirley Charitable Foundation through Al Collins, as well, to gauge whether it might be willing to act as sponsor for the WHF efforts.

WHF Action Items:

- i. Send visual materials to wider audience for support (HC)
 - ii. Invite Preservation Mass to attend March meeting (AF)
 - iii. Review grant applications for possible submission (HC)
 - iv. Submit article for positive publicity (HC)
 - v. Contact Shirley Charitable Foundation regarding sponsorship (HC)
5. PG noted that several historic structures are now vacant and may be planned for demolition (Prescott/Dollhouse buildings in East Acton).
 6. The final item discussed was the plaque program; the planned timing for that program would commence this year and end in 2010, to match up with the timing of the 275th anniversary of the Town. The HC agreed to contact Nina Overall to check on progress.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Maxwell, clerk pro tem

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library