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ACTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Acton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2010
7:30 p.m., Acton Town Hall, Rm. 126

AHC Members Present: Bill Klauer, chair (BK), Victoria Beyer (VB), Bill Dickinson (BD), Brad Maxwell (BM)

1. BK called the meeting to order. Minutes from the Commission's January 2010 meeting and demolition delay hearing were reviewed and approved as corrected.
2. Next, the Commission reviewed the current status of CPA funding request to relocate and preserve the Powdermill Test House. VB related details of the CPC's discussion of Test House CPA funding application, including concerns about not having definitive estimates for the proposed work and uncertainty about owner's commitment to prepare the house for relocation. VB also discussed availability of leftover CPA historic preservation funds from last year, and potential application towards test house. **ACTION ITEMS: (a) BK to ask owner to put in writing his commitment to assist/contribute to the relocation; (b) VB to discuss with the Town engineering department whether it could provide necessary basic architectural/professional services for the relocation (site plan, foundation plan, etc.).**
3. The next topic discussed was the South Acton Train Station. VB was present at the recent meeting attended by MBTA officials. MBTA's station design is not historically sensitive at present. The Commission approved the Section 106 letter drafted by BM, and BK will sign and send the letter.
4. The Commission then reviewed the status of the Cultural Resource List updates being performed by Diane Sergeij. Certain structures were nominated for removal from the CRL, and the Commission discussed those visited so far. The Commission agreed to revisit 249 Parker Street to confirm whether to leave it on the CRL. BK also noted that the building department doesn't refer any additions to CRL structures to the Commission for consideration. BM noted that Chapter N of the Bylaws covers demolition of structures "or any part thereof," so additions should be included. BK noted that the goal of reviewing such additions would not be to halt them, but rather to assist with design ideas, so that the CRL is not left with structures too altered in character to be worth saving.
5. Next discussed was the updated draft of the historic marker program materials. BM will revise the materials per comments received, and also confer with the Historic District Commission regarding their marker program.
6. The Commission turned to the upcoming presentation on reuse of the Morrison Farm as a working organic farm. BK noted that this proposal has been under consideration for some time, but the

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historic structures weren't deemed suitable for use. The Commission noted that the buildings are in need of repair, and the Town may need to build new structures to make the organic farming use possible. VB indicated that the Morrison Farm reuse report is available online, and that the property is on the CRL, but is not subject to Chapter N because it is owned by the Town. BK also discussed potential issues with ingress/egress and parking, and noted other possibly viable locations on the property for a farmstand and parking.

7. The Commission turned to a discussion of the Vallaincourt House at 17 Woodbury Lane, and Dean Charter's request for a discussion with the Commission about the use/status of the building. VB and BK discussed the need to keep the historic elements of the building and the unsuitable condition of the floorboards. BD noted that the basement could be shored up by filling with concrete. BD will attend the meeting with Dean Charter and the HDC and give perspective on keeping the building and the potential work required to do so.
8. The Commission discussed and unanimously approved co-sponsorship of the historic workshop for window repair that is also being sponsored by the HDC and was suggested by Kathy Bachmann. BK will discuss with HDC.
9. The next topic discussed was the balloon test for the proposed cell tower at 5-7 Craig Street. The Commission discussed comments on the proposed tower and submitted comments, including a recommendations to use a stealth monopole and to generally minimize interference with the historic landscape by decreasing visibility and appendages wherever possible.
10. The Commission then considered the cell tower proposed just over the Maynard line, and unanimously determined that it did not need to comment on the tower application.
11. The final topic discussed was the draft copy of proposed Chapter U of the Town Bylaws, relating to the municipal water permit. BM will review the draft.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Maxwell, clerk

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Manager
Town Library