



TOWN OF ACTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
472 MAIN STREET
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 01720
hdc@acton-ma.gov

19 January 2016

Mr. Peter Ashton
Chairman
Community Preservation Committee

Re: Acton Historic District Commission Project Application

Dear Committee Members,

Please find attached an application submitted on behalf of the Historic District Commission (HDC) requesting funding for the services of an Historic District Consultant. The consulting services proposed are for a limited time period with a defined scope of work as described in the application narrative.

As you may be aware, each of Acton's three historic districts encompass multiple zoning districts such as R-2, WAV, SAV, etc. Since the districts were created in 1990, this situation has led to confusion, delays and sometimes acrimony among district residents as well as entities proposing alterations or new construction within the districts. The HDC requests your assistance to permit our committee to clarify the procedures, rules and regulations and bylaws within the districts. This information will allow the HDC the tools to make more rigorous, logical and informed decisions. We expect the outcome of this consultant's efforts will be proposed zoning warrant articles for the town's consideration; perhaps in the form of an historic district zoning overlay.

As a starting point for the proposed consultant's efforts, former HDC member Scott Kutil has invested considerable personal time in inventorying all of the 190 properties within the districts using the town's GIS system. The HDC now has sophisticated spreadsheets describing each property including lot size, house square footage, setbacks, frontages, open space, FAR, etc. These statistics have allowed the HDC to parse the information to say, compute the average FAR of R-2 properties within the South Acton Historic District. The HDC now would like to leverage, enhance and codify this information, which will require more time, effort and expertise than the volunteers on the HDC can provide.

We look forward to your approval of this application.
Please contact the HDC if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

David Honn
HDC Vice Chair