

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
November 6, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Smiley called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Mark Bilodeau, Stephen Dodge and Margaret Welch. Peter Binette was also in attendance.

3. Demolition Applications

Henry Becker c/o Mark Griffin, Esq.

231 Northern Boulevard

Full Building Demolition

Mark Griffin said the camp-style structure, built around 1880, has been vacant for nearly 30 years. One wall is being held in place by supports from the exterior. Linda Smiley said the structure is of a type that is rapidly disappearing from the island but appears not be worth saving.

Mark Bilodeau moved the structure is not historically significant. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Minco Corp.

92R Merrimac Street

Full Building Demolition

Lou Minicucci represented Minco. He said the structure has not been actively used for ten years and its reuse would not be practical. The building is assessed at \$65,000. If the cost of renovations were to exceed \$20,000, Minco would be required to bring the structure up to code and elevate it above the floodplain, which would be problematic for a brick building. He said Minco intends to construct a four-story building with 26 units and ground-level parking in its place.

Linda Smiley moved the structure is historically significant. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

A site visit will take place on Saturday, November 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Giena of Newburyport, LLC

79 Storey Avenue, Building 1 - Full Building Demolition

79 Storey Avenue, Building 2 - Full Building Demolition

81 Storey Avenue – Full Building Demolition

Scott James Mitchell described the plans to demolish four structures in a commercially zoned area and replace them with a drugstore and a gas station with a convenience store. One of the buildings is less than 75 years old. Linda Smiley asked if the applicants had considered moving

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the buildings. They responded that they have not been successful in the past with moving structures.

Linda Smiley moved that building #1 at 79 Storey Avenue is historically significant. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Bilodeau moved that building #2 at 79 Storey Avenue is historically significant. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Malcolm Carnwath moved that 81 Storey Avenue is historically significant. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

A site visit will take place on Saturday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m.

4. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the October 16 meeting as submitted.

Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. General Business

Andy Port will distribute to the members copies of the second round of proposals for the Kelley School.

6. Correspondence

The NHC was copied on three letters from the Massachusetts Historic Commission. The first stated the preservation restriction for the First Religious Society Meetinghouse does not meet MHC's requirements and must be rewritten, the second provided comments on the draft preservation restriction for the high school and the third concurred with the opinion of the NHC that the demolition of a potting shed at Maudslay State Park would have a negative impact on the park but appears to be necessary. The members discussed requesting that applicants create a photographic record of buildings that are released for demolition.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.