

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
November 11, 2013
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Stephen Dodge, Margaret Welch, Malcom Carnworth and Bill Todd. Assistant Building Inspector Peter Binette was also in attendance. Linda Smiley introduced new Commission member Malcom Carnworth.

3. Demolition Applications

James Bourque

15 Tyng Street

Review of Modified Plan

The applicant had received permission for the partial demolition of a structure at a previous meeting. When work was begun it was found that the walls had buckled and are not structurally sound. Mr. Bourque wishes to take the walls down to the first floor. The elevation, proportion and height of the building would not be changed.

Linda Smiley moved to allow the removal of the walls as proposed to make the building structurally sound. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adam True

11 Payson Street

Partial Demolition and Roofline Change

The applicant is proposing to remove a flat roof from a single story section of the house in order to add a second story with a gable roof in this location. The addition would not be visible from the street. The windows in the addition would be of the same configuration as those in the remainder of the structure.

Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda Smiley moved to accept the project as submitted. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

John Shortsleeve

1 Neptune Street

Roofline Change

Eileen Graf appeared for the applicant, who wishes to modify an addition to a 1735 house. The addition was constructed in the 1970s. The shed roof on the addition would be changed to a gable roof and double-hung windows would replace its existing casement ones. The height of the addition would not be altered.

Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Linda Smiley said the proposal is an improvement and a better fit for the house. She moved to allow the change as proposed. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

344 Merrimac Street LLC

344 Merrimac Street
Partial Demolition

Lisa Mead appeared for the applicant, who is proposing to remove a 1990s addition from the rear of an 1805 structure and construct a two-story addition in its place. A stepped-down connector would lead to a third unit behind the original house. Ms. Mead said a clear separation would exist between the historically significant structure and the added unit. Linda Smiley said the removal of the addition would have no impact on the original structure. She added the new unit would fit contextually with the house, which is the limit of the Commission's purview.

Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda Smiley moved to accept the plan as shown. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Minutes

Margaret Welch moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting as submitted. Linda Smiley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Correspondence:

The following items were received and filed:

- a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding 42 Merrimac Street.
- a copy of a letter from the First and Ocean Realty Corp. to the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding 42 Merrimac Street.
- a letter from an individual who seeks to acquire eighteenth century brick. Linda Smiley will forward the letter to Tom Kolterjahn.
- a copy of a project completion report for Custom House Maritime Museum sent from Greg Colling to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

6. General Business

Linda Smiley reported that the Oliver House has been demolished.

Peter Binette said the City is beginning work to revise the Zoning Ordinance and the Commission might wish to make comments. The members discussed their desire to have Section VI-C amended, as two separate structures on a lot would be preferable the connected ones that are a result of the current code.

Bill Todd announced he has submitted a letter of resignation to the Mayor. He will remain on the Commission until the end of the year unless a replacement has been approved before then.

7. Adjournment

Linda Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.