

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
City Hall Conference Room  
November 9, 2016  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath and Ned McGrath. Stephen Dodge and Mark Bilodeau were absent.

**3. Demolition Applications**

**GEM Realty** □

79 Parker Street □

Full Demolition of Farmhouse and Barn

At the October 26, 2016 meeting the Commission voted the house and barn are historically significant. The property owner has withdrawn the demolition application.

**4. Advisory Review**

None

**5. General Business**

**Lisa Mead for Diane and Greg Chorebanian**

55 Washington Street

Preservation Restriction

Lisa Mead represented the applicants, who wish to add a small residential unit to the rear of the property. This action would require a 6(C) special permit from the Planning Board. The structure was built between 1912 and 1920 and is listed as contributing to the National Register District. The applicants are proposing to place a preservation restriction on the structure to fulfill the public benefit requirement of the special permit. In a three to one straw vote at the October 26 meeting the members agreed to support the preservation restriction.

No work is planned for the structure at this time, but the preservation restriction would give the Historical Commission purview over changes made to the exterior of the house in the future. The restriction would require that any changes made to the structure visible from the street be in keeping with the American Four Square style. The placement of doors and windows must conform to this style. The height and pitch of the roof may not be altered and any dormers that might be added must be in keeping with the period of the house. Cedar siding must be used when the vinyl siding is replaced. New windows must be of wood with true divided lights. Any addition to the rear of the structure may not be visible above the original roofline and may not overwhelm the original structure. A sign shall be added indicating the year the house was built and by whom.

Attorney Mead will draft the preservation restriction. The Commission members will vote to approve the final version when it has been received.

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Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, co-president of Newburyport Preservation Trust, asked the Commission to give thought and action to the monitoring of preservation restrictions and to finding a method to enforce them. A flag in the building department is a tool that is needed. It might be possible to receive a grant for tracking preservation restrictions. The Commission is working to compile a list of State and local restrictions. Some private restrictions exist as well.

**6. Minutes**

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the minutes of the September 28 meeting. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The approval of the minutes of the October 26 meeting was tabled.

**7. Adjournment**

Ned McGrath moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.