

# Newburyport Historical Commission

## Minutes of the 20 January 2011 Meeting

### **1. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) was called to order at 7:40 in the Planning Office, City Hall. Present: Stephen Feige, Ned McGrath, Tom Kolterjahn, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Linda Smiley.

### **2. Advisory Review**

John Minton, architect for a project involving 5 Strong Street, showed photos of the current structure. He spoke of the structural issues such as powder post beetle damage and undersized members which made him believe that it was not feasible to salvage the building. He said that his clients would replace the building with a residence sensitive to the historic neighborhood. NHC member Kolterjahn, when asked about the demolition application procedures, advised Mr. Minton to research the building and mentioned the Historical Society of Old Newbury as a resource. NHC member Stephen Feige pointed out the building codes allowed for alternate avenues for renovating older structures. NHC member McGrath said that the NHC would work with the property owners to find a satisfactory solution.

### **3. Demolition Applications**

*14 Johnson Street (Katherine Nye, applicant)* – The builder for the property questioned the 1840 date given the structure as the lumber was all dimensional. The basement is fieldstone. Ms. Nye pointed out that the building was on the property of the former Stopworth estate. NHC members were hesitant to vote on the historic significance of the property so a site visit was scheduled. The determination of historic significance would be held next meeting.

### **4. New Business**

*24 Kent Street* – Members of the Planning Department and two NHC members visited the site to observe the addition of shed dormers.

### **5. Old Business**

Member Kolterjahn spoke about the discovery of bulkhead framing for lower Bartlett's Wharf at the Wastewater Plant project. He observed lap joints and wooden pegs. He and William Harris are seeking long-term solutions for preserving the wooden members.

*Meeting ended 8:35.*