

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
January 3, 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, Ned McGrath, Tom Kolterjahn, Margaret Welch, Bill Todd and Stephen Dodge.

3. Demolition Applications

Kathi Rodrigues and Patricia Kurkul

17 Ship Street

Full Building Demolition

The applicants said the house is encroaching on the public way and they wish to replace it with a similar structure that is set back from the public way. They said no repairs have been made to the house in many years and jacks have been installed in the dirt-floor basement. Tom Kolterjahn said the house probably dates from the 1700s. Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant and should be considered for preservation. Tom Kolterjahn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A site visit is scheduled for Saturday, January 5 at 9:30 a.m.

4. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2012 meeting as submitted. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Public Hearings

Brown Square Realty Trust, Al Clifford, Trustee

14 Russia Street

Full Building Demolition

Linda Smiley opened the public hearing. She said both she and Tom Kolterjahn received phone calls about the project and it is the policy of the Commission to hold public hearings for applications for full demolitions. No members of the public were in attendance to speak in favor of or in opposition to the proposed demolition. A letter in support of the issuance of a demolition permit was received from Bill Harris, 54-56 Lime Street, and was read into the record. Linda Smiley closed the public hearing.

Al Clifford said he has met with the neighbors informally and shared the plans for the replacement structure with them. He said they are in support of the project with the exception of one abutter, who would like the structure to be located a greater distance from the lot line. Linda Smiley asked about the height of the proposed replacement structure. Mr. Clifford said there are many large buildings in the neighborhood and this would not be the tallest. Tom Kolterjahn said

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the new building would fit well with the scale of the neighborhood. Linda Smiley said Mr. Clifford did a nice job with the plans.

Tom Kolterjahn moved to allow the full demolition of the structure because the building was not originally well constructed, it has serious structural problems, the foundation is in terrible condition, there does not appear to be any of the original framing remaining, only half of it is over 75 years old and there is not enough of it left to warrant imposing a delay. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Other Business

Merrimac Ale House

Andy Port said the plans for the Merrimac Ale House do not call for the full demolition of the Davis Auto building, but the structure would be significantly changed. The Commission members made preliminary comments on the plans. They said they would like a clear distinction made between the original portion of the structure and the addition; they want to be able to discern the geometry of the original building. They suggested clapboards be used on the addition to the rear of the structure and they would prefer skylights to dormers. Tom Kolterjahn said he is concerned about the method that would be used for removing the paint from the brick.

39-41 Ashland Street

The site visit for 39-41 Ashland Street has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.