

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 17 February 2011 Informational Meeting

1. Roll Call

Present: Linda Smiley, Tom Kolterjahn, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Ned McGrath and Stephen Feige. It was noted that, due to lack of a quorum, this meeting would be informational and that no votes could be taken.

2. New Business

War Memorial Stadium—Geordie Vining, project manager, introduced Tom Scarlata of BH+A, the firm recently hired to renovate the Stadium. Mr. Scarlata discussed his extensive experience with other WPA-era stadiums such as Lowell, Franklin, and Stamford, Conn., and then outlined the work on the South Stands including repairs to concrete, upgrade in railings, and better lighting. They are not looking to make substantial visual changes. NHC member Kolterjahn asked how long the repairs would last. Mr. Scarlata said that the concrete repairs would last for a minimum of twenty-five years. Cleaning spilled acidic liquids such as sports drinks yearly would be recommended. A breathable coating over the concrete should be applied every seven years.

The South Stands project is slated for this summer. BH+A will assess the condition of the North Stands and make recommendations. NHC member Welch raised the issue of 106 compliance if the stadium received federal or state funding in the future. Member Kolterjahn said that he was glad that BH+A had extensive experience with stadiums of this era.

3. Old Business

Update on Coombs and Lower Bartlett Wharves – William Harris, 56 Lime Street, discussed how he, member Kolterjahn, and Preservation Trust member Ben Twombly, cut a section of a timber and wrapped it for transport to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation laboratory. Mr. Harris had submitted an application for CPC funding for the conservation so that the firm of Pieter Harford, project manager for the sewage wastewater project, could be reimbursed. Chair Smiley had written a letter of support for the CPC application. The Custom House Maritime Museum will accept the acquisition. The conservation lab would perform dendochronology analysis and stabilize the wood. Mr. Harford said that Tim Barker, the archaeologist, would be on site the upcoming week.

Informational meeting ended 8:36.