

Newburyport Historical Commission
Mayor's Conference Room
February 8, 2017
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, Stephen Dodge and Mark Bilodeau. Ned McGrath was absent. James Bone was also in attendance.

3. Demolition Application

Jonathan Young

7 Butler Street

Roofline change

The applicant is proposing to change the roofline of a single-family home dating from at least 1850. Sarah White explained the demolition delay process to the applicant. Mr. Young described the changes he is proposing to make to the structure. He said the house is a small one and is out of scale with the other dwellings on the street. He would like to raise the roof four feet to create a full second story. The form of the original roof would be retained. A second story would be added above the existing one-story, flat-roofed portion of the rear of the house. The footprint of the structure would not be changed. The vinyl siding would be replaced with wood clapboards and the windows would be replaced with wooden ones with true divided lights.

Sarah White moved that the structure is historically significant. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The applicant must provide dimensioned elevations showing the proposed changes. Sarah White pointed out that small houses were often worker's cottages and their size does not make them inappropriate for the neighborhood. The Commission members suggested ways in which the proposed plans could be improved. They stressed the changes should be in proportion to the existing structure. The window facing the street on the third floor should be made narrower and should be a two-over-two, double-hung window. Symmetrical windows should be added to both the first and second stories on the plain wall. These could be blind windows or frosted glass could be used, but the glass should not be reflective or mirrored.

4. Minutes

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting as submitted. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mark Bilodeau abstaining.

5. Adjournment

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.