

# Newburyport Historical Commission

## Minutes of the 17 March 2011 Meeting

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

The regularly scheduled meeting the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order at 7:32 in Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Linda Smiley, Tom Kolterjahn, Bill Todd, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Ned McGrath.

### **2. Demolition Applications**

*36 Marlboro Street (Matthew Pieniazek, applicant)* — Mr. Pieniazek and the project architect Dave Keery explained their intention of removing a small, shed-like addition in order to renovate the house's kitchen. Mr. Keery thought that the addition might be from the 1900s. Members did not believe the addition added to the historic or architectural value of the house. The house was voted historically significant (4 yes, 1 absent) and demolition of the addition was allowed to proceed (4 yes, 1 absent).

*20 Johnson Street (Geno Ranaldi, applicant)* – Project architect Leah McGavern explained why she believed the extant structure was not historically significant and could be demolished. She said that there was little historical context on Johnson Street and that the street was not in the National Register District. She could not easily discern the original elements in the house. NHC member Kolterjahn discussed his conclusions made after a site visit; he thought that a small two room over two room house had been added onto, and that the original roof was visible in the attic. The NHC voted the house historically significant and a site visit was scheduled for Saturday 26 March at 8:30.

### **3. Old Business**

*Congregation Achavas Achim* – Jayne Underwood distributed drafts of the preservation restriction. She discussed the future plans of renovating the basement and adding an outside staircase. Ms. Underwood would coordinate completion of the restriction with the Planning Office.

*Masonic Temple* – NHC members discussed the ongoing negotiations with the Board of Directors. The NHC will write a letter to CPC about the situation.

### **4. New Business**

*Old South Church* – The NHC will write a letter of recommendation re: funding for the proposed roofing project.

*Intermodal Parking Facility* – Planning Director Andy Port discussed plans for the parking facility to be site on Titcomb and Merrimac Streets. NHC members Smiley and Kolterjahn had earlier met with officials about the facility. MHC is asking for feedback for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) concerning four buildings identified as contributing to the NRD. Members discussed saving and moving two of the structures with one structure filling the empty corner of Market and Merrimac. The garage will be forty feet high. The Planning Director wants a lower level with shops and offices to have an active presence on the street. NHC member Welch suggested that wayside signs orienting visitors using the garage to historic downtown Newburyport be included in the planning.

Chair Smiley distributed a 16 March email from two officials at Kleinfelder discussing questions for the Historical Commission based in large part on an earlier MOA. In response to a query in the email asking why the Titcomb site was chosen above the Green Street site, member Kolterjahn said that erecting the garage on the Green Street site would be “desecration.” The Planning Director will arrange a site visit to see the buildings.

## **5. Review of Minutes**

Review of 3 March minutes deferred due to lack of quorum.

*Meeting ended 9:20.*