

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
City Council Chambers  
March 20, 2014  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Linda Smiley at 7:45 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Margaret Welch, Stephen Dodge and Mark Bilodeau. Peter Binette was also in attendance.

**3. Demolition Applications**

**John Whitcomb**

56-58 Liberty Street

Partial Building Demolition

John Whitcomb said he has renovated the interior of this two-family home and is now ready to improve the exterior. He wishes to remove an addition, garage and three-season porch that were constructed in the 1840s. He is proposing to add an attached garage with a living area above it. The form of the gambrel roof on the main house would be repeated on the addition.

Linda Smiley said the proposed addition is sensitive to the style of the main house and is an improvement over the existing conditions. Margaret Welch commended the applicant for setting the addition further back from the street than the main portion of the house. Mark Bilodeau recommended that an architect be used to complete the plans.

Linda Smiley moved the structure is historically significant. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the demolition of the garage and two additions and allow the replacement to be constructed as shown in the drawings. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Public Hearings**

None

**5. General Business**

**Newburyport High School**

241 High Street

Preservation Restriction

Patrick Guthrie of Spencer Vogt Architects discussed the elements of the high school portico to be included in the preservation restriction that is a condition of CPA funding. He provided a list of character-defining features that the Commission will use as a framework for the restriction. The restriction must be in place before CPA funds would be released. Bid documents are currently being prepared for the first phase of the project and the work is to be done this summer. The Commission members will review the RFP.

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**Demolition Control Ordinances**

The Commission members discussed the two proposed demolition control ordinances. The text of the proposed ordinances can be found on the City website.

**6. Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of the March 6 meeting was tabled.

**7. Correspondence**

A letter was received from MHC regarding the pending Curzon Mill Road open space acquisition.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.