

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 3 March 2011 Meeting

1. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order at 7:33 in Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Linda Smiley, Tom Kolterjahn, Ned McGrath, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Stephen Feige.

2. Demolition Applications

4 Otis Place (Mark Griffin, applicant) — Mr. Griffin presented plans to remove a side porch in order to gain off-street parking. NHC members said that they did not think the porch stylistically significant. The NHC voted the house historically significant (4 yes, 1 absent) and voted to allow demolition of the porch (4 yes, 1 absent).

3. New Business

244 High Street – Project architect Leah McGavern presented plans for a new shed dormer in the rear of the building. The NHC approved this modification as seen in the 16 February 2011 plan (4 yes, 1 absent). Chair Smiley will write a letter of approval to the ZBA.

Congregation Achavas Achim – Jayne Underwood, understanding that a preservation restriction is being negotiated between the Congregation and Newburyport Historical Commission, came before the Commission with a mock-up of an informational sign, approximately three by four feet, to be placed on the building. NHC members Smiley and Kolterjahn worried that the sign would be a visual distraction and said that they would prefer neutral colors. Member McGrath suggested that historic information also be placed on the sign. Members suggested that a graphic designer be consulted. Ms. Underwood would return to the NHC with the restriction draft.

Meeting ended 8:00.