

Newburyport Historical Commission
Minutes of the April 1, 2010 Meeting

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Linda Smiley at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Tom Kolterjahn, Ned McGrath, Leah McGavern and Margaret Welch.

3. Advisory Review

Arrowhead Family Farm

Dick Chase spoke of plans for the 1789 house that had been owned by his sister, Polly Chase Harrell. The original part of the house is intact, including the kitchen, and the barn in excellent condition. Mr. Chase plans to create an agricultural and cooking history center. There would be a small processing kitchen, the barn would be made functional for a small farm and an accessible restroom would be added. Mr. Chase is seeking the support of NHC and the Planning Department. He would like to obtain CPA funding for adding restrictions on the property. There is currently an agricultural restriction but Mr. Chase would like added protection. There is a preservation restriction on the 1790 house but it has many loopholes. He is looking for a strict architectural restriction that would allow the evolution of the farm to be demonstrated. Margaret Welch explained that one intended use of CPA funds is to purchase restrictions, although this has not yet been done in Newburyport. An owner would receive money in exchange for the restriction because it reduces the value of the property. The Commission members informally agreed that they are in support of Mr. Chase's efforts. A site visit will take place on Saturday, April 17 at 9:00.

4. Demolition Applications

247 Water Street

Elizabeth Nietsch

Partial Demolition

The applicant is proposing to remove an existing porch and replace it with a two-story addition and a six-foot wide deck. The roof will extend four feet longer on its current line. Linda Smiley explained that the standards of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior call for a distinction between existing conditions and new construction. The project as it is proposed does not provide such a distinction, but it could be accomplished if the roof of the addition were to be dropped to indicate where the new construction begins. Linda Smiley moved to approve the demolition of the existing porch with the condition that the new roofline will be dropped down below the existing and the corner trim board will be retained. Leah McGavern seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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5. Other Business

Margaret Welch said there is not an interest in creation of an affordable housing unit at the Andrews Branch library. The CPA application for deleading the structure will now only be a historic preservation one.

Ned McGrath said the Vernacular Architecture Forum is holding a conference on the frame houses of Massachusetts Bay on April 10.

A meeting on the interaction between the stretch code and historic structures will take place at City Hall on Friday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m.

6. Correspondence

- The certified record of the proceedings of the initial court submission for 84-87 State Street was received from Kopelman and Page.
- A notification was received from Sage Environmental regarding the installation of fiberglass-reinforced chimneys with towers by T Mobile at 37 1/2 Forrester Street. The Commission may submit comments to Sage Environmental on the impact the action would have on the historic structure. The Commission members will individually visit the site to determine how visible the installation would be and will discuss the matter at the next meeting.

7. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the March 23 meeting was deferred.

8. Adjournment

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