

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 7 April 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, Bill Todd, and Margaret Welch.

2. Old Business

War Memorial Stadium Renovation Update — Tom Scarlata of BH+A, project architect, and Georgie Vining of the Planning Office said that they were bringing together the bid package for May. Mr. Scarlata said that his inspection, made after the snow melt, revealed that the South stand was in better condition than anticipated. Most of the damage occurred as a result of water seeping downwards from the metal railings. He recommended taking off the parking underneath the stands. He discussed the new coverings for the rails and mentioned that new LED lighting would be installed. It is hoped that work could proceed in the summer; a public informational meeting will be scheduled soon.

3. Demolition Applications

22 Milk Street (Paul Paquette, applicant) – The applicant, who is considering purchasing the residence, proposed to remove the “jog” on the side to provide room for parking. The NHC, during an earlier application, had declared the house historically significant. The NHC voted to allow the demolition of the back addition as indicated in the plans (5 yes). NHC members indicated that they regretted the demolition of an early addition but were eager to see the residence occupied.

4. Public Hearing – 20 Johnson Street

Chair Smiley suspended the public meeting at 7:55 and called the public hearing to order. No members of the audience spoke in favor of or against the project. The hearing was closed at 8:00.

5. Demolition Applications (cont.)

20 Johnson Street -- Geno Ranaldi, the applicant, spoke about the history of the project. The project's architect, Leah McGavern, had submitted written commentary. Her suggestion for a detached garage will be followed.

NHC member Kolterjahn said that in his estimation the current structure was built at five or six different times. He said that he did not know to which period the house would be restored. Chair Smiley said that the loss of the house would not affect the streetscape adversely because

many of the nearby houses were not historic. NHC member McGrath urged Mr. Ranaldi to reuse the structural timbers (the door brackets had been placed already on another property). The NHC voted to allow demolition (5 yes).

6. Review of Minutes

Minutes of 3 March approved with amendments.

7. Correspondence Received

The NHC received a copy of the letter sent by MHC to the DCR re: the demolition of an outbuilding in Maudslay State Park. The demolition will create an adverse effect but the MHC saw no prudent alternative.

Meeting ended 8:20.