

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
Mayor's Conference Room  
June 14, 2017  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Mark Bilodeau and Stephen Dodge. Ned McGrath was absent.

**3. Demolition Delay Application**

**Cummings Architects**

30 Madison Street

Partial Demolition and Roofline Change

Jeff Moore represented the applicant, who is proposing to restore the 1750 Benjamin Thurlow house. A two-story addition would be constructed on the footprint of an existing one-story section that was not original to the structure. The roofline would be altered to convert the structure to a saltbox. Cedar clapboards would be added, along with a new wood door and nine over six wood windows. Mark Bilodeau moved the structure is historically significant. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A public hearing will be scheduled for the July 12 meeting.

**4. Advisory Review**

**George Carey, Sea Level Oyster Bar**

1 Market Square

DOD Special Permit: Review of Proposed Sign

At the February 22 meeting the members voted to recommend the project to the Planning Board with certain conditions. Members expressed concerns about signage being mounted to a brick façade, whether or not the brick is old. Penetrations of the brick allow for damaging water infiltration. Members were also not in favor of a proposal to paint a sign on the rear façade. The Commission is opposed to any type of painting of brick because paint seals the brick and prevents it from breathing. As a compromise the NHC had suggested a sign be painted or attached to the new hipped-roof structure over the rear seating area. Despite the previous communication, the Planning Board has asked the NHC to review a proposal by the applicant to mount a sign on the second level of the stair tower, adjacent to the deck, where the brick is not historic. Mark Bilodeau moved to recommend the sign be of wood, with a dark-colored background and gold lettering in the style of options #2 or #3 as presented. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. General Business**

Mark Griffin, Esq.

496 Merrimac Street

Preservation Restriction

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The applicant received a 6(C) special permit from the Planning Board to construct a new home at the rear of the site. To fulfill the public benefit requirement for the special permit, the applicant agreed to place a preservation restriction on the main house. Eric Dray, a consultant hired to research the age of the structure, advised the applicant that the Massachusetts Historical Commission would be unlikely to agree to hold a preservation restriction on the structure. In his opinion most buildings within Newburyport's National Register District would not qualify for a permanent preservation restriction. The applicant has not submitted a preservation restriction to the MHC for review but is instead requesting that a 30-year restriction that would be held by the NHC be placed on the structure instead. Sarah White moved to issue a response to the Planning Board indicating the NHC would not consider holding a 30-year preservation restriction on the structure until the applicant has submitted a preservation restriction to the MHC and a response has been received. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Newburyport Art Association**

65 and 73 Water Street

Informal Discussion on Potential Exterior Renovations

Brad Dore and Michele Rogers of Dore and Whittier described a proposal that is in its beginning stages for the expansion of the structure that houses the Newburyport Art Association. The addition planned for the rear of the structure would enhance accessibility and allow the Association to expand its educational programs. The Commission members advised that the addition should read as a separate structure, both in terms of style and materials. A physical space should separate the two structures and the penetration of the historic structure should be as small as possible. The addition should not be visible from the street. Sarah White invited the design team to engage the NHC in informal discussions as much as possible.

### **6. Minutes**

Stephen Dodge moved to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting as submitted. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting as submitted. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **7. Adjournment**

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.