

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 2 June Meeting

1. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order at 7:30 in Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Tom Kolterjahn, Linda Smiley, Bill Todd, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Ned McGrath.

2. Demolition Applications

28-30 Warren Street (/George Haseltine, applicant) – The applicant presented his plans to remove the nineteenth-century additions to this Georgian-era, central-chimney residence. He will preserve the paneling, wainscoting, and mantles. He intends that the additions complement the main structure. NHC member Kolterjahn recommended six-over-six windows. Project architect Leah McGavern said that the captain's staircase would remain but would not function as a staircase. The NHC voted the structure historically significant (4 yes, 1 absent). Members agreed that the restoration of the eighteen-century residence was more important than the nineteenth-century additions; the tradeoff would “benefit Newburyport.” Chair Smiley liked how the proposed addition at the left was stepped back and lowered. A discussion of the proposed roof height ensued. The NHC voted to approved demolition as outlined in the presented plans with the specified architectural elements preserved (4 yes, 1 absent).

244 High Street (Geno Ranaldi, applicant) – Chair Smiley provided an update on the status of the barn. The restoration specialist Aaron Sturgis wrote a report indicating that the building was in unstable condition and recommended removal with preservation of individual parts. Chair Smiley approved demolition in a 25 May memo to Mr. Ranaldi, stipulating that archival documentation be provided to the NHC.

3. New Business

Emma Andrews Library -- The Library is researching options for an ADA compliant entrance. The possibility of removing the porch had been discussed. NHC members will visit the site individually, and the situation will be discussed at the next meeting.

Community Preservation Committee – NHC member Welch briefly discussed the recommendations for FY11 funding to City Council.

Proposed Newburyport Local Historic District – NHC member Welch updated the NHC on the progress of the Study Committee. The Committee plans to mount public information on its website this summer.

Documentation – NHC member Kolterjahn will not be retaining backup copies of the Commission's records. He reminded NHC members to be vigilant in forwarding all relevant documentation re: an application to the Planning Office because the Planning Office would now be the only repository for full NHC documentation.

4. Review of Minutes

Minutes of 21 April deferred due to lack of quorum. Minutes of 19 May approved with emendations.

Meeting ended 9:05.