

# Newburyport Historical Commission

## Minutes of the 5 July 2012 Meeting

### **1. Call to Order**

The regularly scheduled meeting the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order at 7:34 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Steve Dodge, Tom Kolterjahn, Linda Smiley, Bill Todd, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Ned McGrath.

### **2. Guests**

Natalie Brown, 339 High Street, inquired about the status of 26 Toppans Lane. Chair Smiley informed her that the NHC had invoked the one-year demolition delay. Ms. Brown told the NHC that Royal Barry Wills designed the house for her aunt and that it incorporated many historic features.

### **3. Demolition Applications**

*284 Water Street (Herbert Sears applicant)* – No one represented the project. The NHC still required clarification of the application.

*338 Merrimac Street (Richard and Kathleen Hordon)* – The project to renovate a side porch involved modifying the roof. NHC members said that the renovation would be an improvement. The NHC voted the house historically significant (5 yes, 1 absent) and voted to approve the demolition as presented (5 yes, 1 absent).

*7 Warren Street (Carlo Mandrone and Margaret Riha)* – The NHC members had made a site visit. Based on their observations, members consider the structure lacking in historic significance. No historic style could be discerned or substantial original fabric remained. The NHC voted to rescind the vote of historic significance and to allow the demolition of the house (5 yes, 1 absent).

### **4. Review of Minutes**

Minutes for 28 June approved with one emendation.

### **5. New Business**

Skip Motes, 26 High Street, began an informal discussion of the possibility of 61 Water Street and 65 Water Street being nominated for the National Register. 61 Water Street, owned by Dave Hall, has an original core built ca. 1725 and two bays built ca. 1759. 65 Water Street, now the home of the Newburyport Art Association, is the only surviving maritime wharf-head story and merchant dwelling once dominating Water Street. Mr. Motes distributed the historical research

including that of Bayley's Wharf. The NAA would make available brochures, and the proposed Range Light Sculpture Park would have interpretative signage.

Chair Smiley said the NHC would support fully pursuit of the nomination.

#### **6. Demolition Applications (cont.)**

*205 Water Street (Scott Brown, project architect, applicant)* – John Morris lives in 209 Water Street and acquired 205 Water Street. The proposed plans join the two properties by means of a connector. An entry appendage not original to the house and part of a hip would be demolished. NHC member Kolterjahn noted that the entry was not present in an historic photo. NHC members commented favorably on how the connector was recessed and how the outlines of the two buildings were preserved. Chair Smiley said that the proposed shed dormers broke up the roof expanse. The NHC voted the buildings historically significant (5 yes, 1 absent) and voted to release the portions for demolition as presented in the drawings distributed to the NHC (5 yes, 1 absent).

#### **7. Correspondence Received**

Michael Mroz of the Customs House Maritime Museum thanked the NHC for its support for the successful application to the MHC for a building preservation grant.