

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
August 7, 2014
Minutes

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, Mark Bilodeau, Malcolm Carnwath, Stephen Dodge, Ned McGrath, Sarah White, and Margaret Welch.

3. Advisory Review

RedCo Construction

2 Orange Street

Demolition of Rear Additions

Mark Griffin, attorney for the project, gave a brief overview of the plans to demolish the addition on Fair Street and build over the back addition on Orange Street. Mr. Griffin and the applicant Pat Ready said that the project would “fill out” the footprint and create a more symmetrical federal-era look. It is currently five units and would become three units.

Chair Smiley asked whether the fenestration would change, and Mr. Ready said that windows would be reframed and made larger to give a more symmetrical look; new windows will be added. A brief discussion ensued about the project needing only to prove its improved market value to receive approval under the demolition control ordinance. Ned McGrath had concerns about the proposed massing and wondered whether other options were available. Sarah White remarked upon the loss of the original window openings. NHC members noted that the architectural rendering differed from the plans. Chair Smiley said that the back additions could “be cleaned up” and encouraged the applicant to consider sensitive additions. Ned McGrath thought that the addition on Fair Street was originally a separate building and suggested that it could be rehabbed into one unit. Mark Bilodeau was concerned about the loss of the chimneys.

Chair Smiley allowed Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, to comment. He believed that the proposal would fundamentally alter the building. He thought the Fair Street addition may be an early shop.

A site visit was planned.

4. Preservation Restrictions

Belleville Church Review of Work

Hans Erwich represented the church. The church wished to enter into an agreement with Verizon to place an antennae in the tower. There will be no external cables, antennas or towers, and one window and one louver in the steeple will be replaced with the same to match the existing, except in a fiberglass material which allows tower transmission. The NHC

Newburyport Historical Commission

August 7, 2014

recommended that the original window and louver be retained for future use. The NHC members approved of the installation unanimously, and Chair Smiley will write a letter.

First Religious Society

Bill Heenehan, the financial officer and project manager, presented the updated preservation restriction. Material culture scholars Kemble and Betsy Widmer wrote the highly detailed description, and Chair Smiley and Newburyport Preservation Trust Co-President reviewed the document.

Mr. Heenehan discussed the ongoing restoration and discussed the replacement of several entablature moldings. The NHC approved of the replacements.

5. Minutes

The minutes were deferred.

6. New Business

The NHC considered the situation at 59-61 Bromfield Street where demolition beyond what had been approved had occurred. Members discussed how to communicate their concerns to the ZBA and the Building Inspector. A letter was edited and will be sent.

7. Adjournment

Linda Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.