

Newburyport Historical Commission
Mayor's Conference Room
August 9, 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 and Stephen Dodge. Ned McGrath attended by telephone. Mark Bilodeau was absent.

3. Advisory Review

Michael Cyros

6 Purchase Street

DOCD Advisory Review

The Commission included a condition in a May 10, 2017 determination that nine windows dating from the late 1800s shall be restored instead of replaced. John Kelleher represented applicant and said it was found these windows are in very poor condition. In addition, they were not original to the house, which dates from the late 1700s. The applicant intends to install two-over-two windows in the addition that is to be constructed at the rear of the structure and wishes to use the same windows in the original part of the structure for consistency. The Commission members agreed the condition of the windows is poor and they should be replaced rather than preserved. They recommended six-over-six windows be used, as these would be consistent with the period of the house. They requested the applicant provide a sample of the windows for the next meeting. A condition will be made that the sashes to be removed shall not be discarded but rather shall be given to an entity such as the Window Woman of New England or the Preservation Trust for some manner of reuse. Sarah White moved to continue the advisory review to the August 23 meeting. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. General Business

Custom House Maritime Museum

Michael Mroz requested the NHC interpret the preservation restriction placed on the Custom House. The organization is preparing to repair flashing around the parapet wall on the observatory that rests on the roof. Leakage has occurred and is worsening. The flashing would be replaced in kind and would not change the function or appearance of the structure. Mr. Mroz asked if the MHC and NHC must approve the work. In his opinion the work constitutes maintenance but he is concerned it could be interpreted as a total replacement that would require approval because it is being done around the entire parapet wall. The Commission members agreed the nature of the work is maintenance and expressed concerned damage might occur to the interior if the problem were not addressed quickly. Ned McGrath moved to authorize the

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August 9, 2017

work to proceed. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

1690 House Preservation Restriction

Lisa Mead represented the applicant. The Massachusetts Historical Commission agreed to hold a preservation restriction on the 1690 House with the condition a preservation plan for the exterior of the structure be approved and implemented. The applicant is working to prepare a document that would be acceptable to the MHC and this will be forwarded to the NHC upon its completion. The MHC would not object to the inclusion in the restriction of certain interior elements the NHC wishes to be preserved. These elements include three windows, the pocket shutters, the exposed beams, the brick arches and chimneys and the fireboxes. The Commission members asked about the manner in which the pocket shutters would be preserved. Attorney Mead said it would be possible for one pocket shutter to be installed in the wall on the Merrimac Street façade and this will be added to the restriction. She suggested the other two shutters be attached to the wall rather than being placed in it because the shutters would not be visible. The interior is open to the second floor and the two windows on the façade facing the Towle Building would not be accessible. The Commission members would prefer the shutters be placed in the walls even this means they would not be visible at this point in time. Attorney Mead said the preservation plan might include the replacement of some windows and the shutters might fit new windows that would be installed at the street level. The discussion was tabled until the preservation plan is further developed.

Comments from the public were allowed. Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, commented that while he is pleased a restoration plan will be implemented for the exterior of the structure, he is concerned the architect responsible for it is the same as was involved in the demolition of many elements of the structure.

5. Correspondence

Demolition of Carpentry Shop at Maudslay State Park

The NHC was copied on a letter dated June 15, 2017 from the Massachusetts Historic Commission to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The MHC did not comment by the deadline about the DCR's plans to demolish the carpentry shop and will allow the demolition to take place. The Commission members are concerned that the outbuildings at the State Park are not being maintained and are being left to deteriorate. Ned McGrath moved to send a letter to the MHC and DCR about the NHC's concerns about the treatment and state of properties in Maudslay State Park. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Minutes

Stephen Dodge moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting as submitted. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Ned McGrath abstaining.

7. Adjournment

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.