

# Newburyport Historical Commission

## Minutes of the 15 September Meeting

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

The regularly scheduled meeting the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order at 7:35 in the Auditorium, City Hall. Present: Tom Kolterjahn, Steve Dodge, Ned McGrath, Linda Smiley, Bill Todd, and Margaret Welch.

### **2. New Business**

Chair Smiley welcomed new member Steve Dodge.

### **3. Demolition Applications**

*12 Ocean Ave. (Stew and Brenda Hooper, applicants)* – Mr. Hoover presented his plans to build an addition. The saltbox area of the residence was the oldest part with several later additions. NHC members discussed at length whether the proposed addition, extending from the current roofline, overshadowed the original portion but agreed that it was a good effort to keep the current elevation from the street. The NHC, after voting the structure historic, allowed the demolition of two walls with the condition that the presented plans were followed (6 yes).

*National Grid (95 Water Street)* – A project manager discussed the demolition of five currently empty buildings on the property. NHC members believed that the stockroom building was the most substantial and voted it significant (6 yes). A site visit was scheduled.

### **4. Old Business**

*251 Merrimac Street (Brad Kutcher, applicant)* – NHC applicants discussed the draft preservation restrictions after Mr. Kutcher gave the background behind his 6C permit application before the Planning Board. Planning Board Chair Dan Bowie said that interior restrictions could not be enforced. Members would meet with Mr. Kutcher to point out the exterior elements to be specified in the preservation restriction.

*28-30 Warren Street (George Haseltine, applicant)* – Mr. Haseltine discussed his memo of 13 June 2011 requesting the NHC to modify its 10 June memo to the ZBA. Specifically his memo stated that the NHC did not have jurisdiction over interior elements it mentioned in the memo. Member Kolterjahn said that the chimneys should be rebuilt above the roofline. Member Kolterjahn asked that a NHC representative be contacted when interior features are believed to be rotted beyond repair. Member McGrath was concerned that sometimes contractors see some powder post beetle damage and infer that the whole member is rotted out. He hoped that the

applicant understood that such damage may be the remnant of long ago insect activity and that it could be remediated without removing the affected timber.

Mr. Haseltine assured the NHC that he was committed to a “good project.” The ZBA had approved the project. Chair Smiley would write a memo to the Planning Office and the Building Inspector approving the project.

*36A Atkinson Street (preservation restriction)* – Richard and Patricia Batten, owners, requested to install storm windows on this house. Chair Smiley will write a letter saying this was acceptable.

### **Correspondence Received**

Copy of letter from CPC Chair Michael Dissette dated 30 August 2011 requesting the Board of Directors of the Masonic Temple Association requesting a written commitment to enter into a preservation restriction.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of 21 July approved (5 yes, 1 abstention).

### **Old Business (cont.)**

Sarah White, Chair of the LHD Study Committee, gave a preview of the presentation she will give about the proposed Newburyport LHD at public information sessions.

*Meeting ended 9:50.*