

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
September 4, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Smiley called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Malcolm Carnwath, Stephen Dodge, Mark Bilodeau and Sarah White. Peter Binette was also in attendance.

3. Demolition Applications

None

4. Advisory Review

Sarah Gaulty, EBI Consulting for T-Mobile

37.5 Forrester Street

Wayne Stott, Construction Manager for T-Mobile, said the company wishes to replace the existing fiberglass chimneys that have been on the structure for many years. These “stealth” chimneys give the appearance of being made of brick and serve to hid the antennas on the roof. The new stealth chimneys would be slightly larger than the existing ones to accommodate the upgraded antennas. Sarah Gaulty said she is an architectural historian and in her opinion the project would not have an adverse impact on either the structure or the National Register Historic District.

Linda Smiley moved that the action would have no impact on the historic property. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wendy Pearl, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Maudslay State Park Potting Shed

Linda Smiley said the Massachusetts Historical Commission asked the Newburyport Historical Commission to consult with DCR on the demolition of a historic potting shed in Maudslay State Park. MHC had written that the removal of the shed would adversely impact the State park but noted there are no prudent alternatives based on the needs of the park and the condition of the shed.

Linda Smiley moved to notify DCR that the Commission agrees with the assessment of MHC that the demolition of the potting shed would have a negative impact on the park but appears to be necessary. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2 Orange Street

The Commission members commented on changes to the structure proposed by Patrick Reddy. He plans to convert the five-unit building to three units. The members said the structure Mr.

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Reddy has proposed would be out of scale with the neighborhood. They advised him to keep the form of the original structure intact and construct an addition at its rear. The roofline of the original structure and the fenestration on the Orange Street façade should not be altered. The chimneys should not be removed. Mr. Reddy planned to replace the single-family front façade with a double-family façade, an example of which he had seen on High Street. He was advised to not mimic other structures in town. The members had no objections to the removal of the additions. A shed dormer facing the rear of the property, while generally objectionable, might be acceptable if it would make the project feasible. The additions should read as separate structures and their rooflines should be lower than that of the original building. Mr. Reddy will revise the sketches for further review at a future meeting.

5. General Business

None

6. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the April 3 meeting as submitted. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the June 19 meeting as submitted. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the March 20 meeting as submitted. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the July 17 meeting as submitted. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

7. Adjournment

Linda Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.