

Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2008
City Hall

Meeting of the Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Maurice Southworth, Tom Bower, Stephen Feige, Bonnie Sontag

Absent: Kevin Wallace

General Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Minutes not available for review.

Bonnie Sontag stressed the importance of receiving the minutes before the meeting. A discussion of the Commission members present concluded that the minutes should be sent via e-mail at least one week prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Correspondence

Maurice Southworth Discussed letter he received, dated August 25, 2008, from the owners 8-6 Fruit street regarding repairs on existing roof. Roof was to be replaced with similar materials to existing roof. Morris wrote a letter dated August 26, 2008 that work does not require historical review because the design, material and outward appearance of the structure has not been changed.

Old Business

Maurice Southworth, who was absent from last meeting, asked about the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulation section of our guidelines during the September 11, 2008 meeting. Stephen Feige and Tom Bower told him that two options had been discussed and altered, namely:

1. Due to the close proximity of residences on Fruit Street, notification of neighbors within "300 ft," of property in question would be changed to neighbors within "100 ft."
2. "Publicity in Newspaper," prior to public meetings regarding proposed changes within the Fruit Street Historic District would be at the discretion of the members of the Commission.

Bonnie Sontag asked about status of FSHD bank account. Stephen Feige and Tom Bower stated that in the September meeting the Commission voted to have its own bank account. Maurice Southworth said he would check with Nancy Colbert on the status of the account.

New Business

Maurice Southworth suggested that if there are no applications for the Commission to consider, that we work to develop a website and "an information guide" for those within the district. Money collected from fees for applications within the district will help defray any incurred costs to set up this service.

Maurice Southworth mentioned that Nancy Colbert will be leaving her position as Director of the Newburyport Office of Planning and Development at the end of November, 2008. Bonnie Sontag said the job has not yet been posted. She also stated that Geordie Vining, the present Project Manager in the Planning Department, is a good resource if needed during the transition phase before a new director is appointed.

Mayor Moak gave 5-10 minute presentation to promote Ballot Question #4 in November 4, 2008 Election. He will speak or has spoken to all boards and commissions in the city of Newburyport. The question regards retiring debt in a more timely fashion for various programs funded by the city of Newburyport. The initiative would require a proposition 2 ½ override. Mayor Moak distributed a Debt Exclusion Fact sheet that explains the specifics of the plan.

Bonnie Sontag mentioned that the Planning Board is sponsoring a meeting on November 13, 2008 to discuss local Historic Districts and their benefits to their communities. Providing there are no new pending applications, she suggested that we not hold the November meeting and possibly attend this meeting instead. She also mentioned the meeting was to be held at the Newburyport High School Auditorium at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Bower - Note Taker.