

Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2009
City Hall

Meeting of the Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

General Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Maurice Southworth made a motion to approve meeting minutes for December 11, 2008.

Tom Bower seconded the motion.

Minutes approved by: Maurice Southworth, Tom Bower, Kevin Wallace. Bonnie Sontag abstained. Stephen Feige arrived after the minutes were approved.

Correspondence

Chairman Southworth received email from Newburyport City Clerk Richard Jones in response to his inquiry regarding notification of public hearings in the local newspaper. Mr. Jones responded by stating that "Newburyport does not have any ordinance that requires any notice greater than the posting requirement of 48 hours pursuant to the open meeting law". It was felt that perhaps Mr. Jones misunderstood the question posed by Maurice. Bonnie will follow up with Mr. Jones before the next FSHDC meeting for clarification.

In the meantime, Chairman Southworth will notify Councilors Katy Ives, Ed Cameron and Barry Connell of our intent to withdraw our request for an ordinance change to give us the opportunity to rewrite and submit at a later date.

Chairman Southworth also received an email from Chris Skelly of MHC responding to the same inquiry presented to City Clerk Richard Jones.

Mr. Skelly attached a copy of MGL Chapter 40C and stated that "I see no requirement that a public hearing be advertised in a newspaper. It would be a good idea to determine whether your city requires all public hearings to be advertised in the newspaper. If not, I'd stick with notices in city hall and notices to abutters". Mr. Skelly also provided information from a number of municipal HDC's across the Commonwealth relative to notification for public hearings.

Old Business

Bonnie Sontag identified several discrepancies in the Rules and Regulations and will have Diane in the Planning Office make the corrections and post them to the website

New Business

Chairman Southworth introduced the new Planning Director, Sean Sullivan, who was briefed on the development of the FSHDC and the district.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin M. Wallace - Note Taker.