

Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2009
City Hall

Meeting of the Fruit Street Local Historic District Commission was called to order at

Roll Call

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

Absent: Kevin Wallace

General Business

a) Approval of Minutes

Maurice Southworth made a motion to approve meeting minutes for April 9, 2009.

Stephen Feige seconded the motion.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Maurice received e-mail from Jesse and Julie Wehrwein, #3 Fruit Street, who wish to install some storm windows on their house. Maurice told them storm windows are excluded from the FSHDC jurisdiction and no formal approval was necessary.

Old Business

Councilor Ed Cameron informed Maurice that a request to change the FSHDC ordinance was heard on May 11, 2009 . The major changes are as follows

- Applicant is no longer required to place a newspaper ad for an upcoming meeting unless Commission feels it is necessary; instead, meeting must be posted in City Hall 2 weeks prior to date.
- Letters must be sent to notify all members of district, as well as all properties directly abutting or facing the applicant's property.

Bonnie reminded us that all the old rules apply until the changes in the ordinance pass formally.

New Business

Maurice informed us that the letters reviewed at the April meeting were sent to the FSHD property owners this past week. The changes Bonnie had suggested were added, namely, names and contact information of Commission members; reminder to fill in applications as completely as possible; and a request to update property owners' e-mail information.

Bonnie and Stephen suggested we update the ordinance on our website as soon as the final changes have been made.

Discussion as to the fate of the FSHDC if the larger Newburyport Historic District is approved later this year ensued. Bonnie, Stephen, and Maurice seem to feel that the FSHDC will be

absorbed by the NHD. A public meeting regarding the specifics of the final formation of the NHD should be held at City Hall sometime in June.

Maurice revisited the mint and asked if there was some way our Commission could be better informed about what is going on with its restoration.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Bower - Note Taker.