

## **Newburyport Historical Commission**

October 10, 2019

Mayor's Conference Room

Minutes

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

Chair Glenn Richards called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Ron Ziemba, Christopher Fay, Malcolm Carnwath, Patricia Peknik and Glenn Richards. Ned McGrath participated by telephone. Stephen Dodge was absent.

### **3. Public Hearings**

#### **Benjamin Becker**

5 Buck Street

Roofline Change

The applicant is proposing to change the roofline in order to add living space in the attic. At a previous meeting the Commission members commented that the right side of the structure had been heavily modified and the proposal would be an improvement over the existing conditions but the dormer proposed for the left side would detract from the historic character of the original structure. The preferred alternative would be an expansion above the one-story addition at the rear of the main structure. The applicant explained this would not be possible due to the lack a foundation that could support the weight. The Commission members agreed that while the proposal is not ideal, they would not be able to provide suggestions for its improvement.

The hearing was opened to comments from the public. Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, said architect and former NHC chair Linda Smiley had been asked to review the plans and was not able to offer an alternative to the proposal.

Glenn Richards moved to approve the plans as submitted. Ron Ziemba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Kathryn Shipper**

17 Summer Street

Partial Demolition

The applicant is proposing to demolish a 10' x 16' addition at the rear of the original structure. The addition is in poor condition and is unheated and without a foundation. The single-story structure that would replace it would be slightly larger but would be further removed from the property line.

The hearing was opened to comments from the public. Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, said the proposed change is a modest one.

Ned McGrath moved to approve the plans as submitted. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. General Business**

##### **Preservation Timber Framing, Inc.**

195 High Street

Demolition Delay Historical Significance Determination

The applicant is proposing to restore an 18<sup>th</sup> century timber frame carriage barn. The barn, which has been severely damaged, would be dismantled and its original fenestration pattern would be studied. The timber framing and beadboard would be retained. The restored barn would be placed on a new foundation.

Malcolm Carnwath moved the structure is historically significant. Patricia Peknik seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

##### **Custom House Maritime Museum**

25 Water Street

Request for Approval of Work Subject to Preservation Restriction

Gregg Colling described the plans to replace the slate roof on the Custom House.

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the proposed roofing work. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

##### **Complete Streets: Parker Street Trail Grant Application**

Plans are being reviewed for the linking of the second and third phases of the Rail Trail, which would involve the crossing of Route 1 near the traffic circle. The Commission members determined the work would not negatively impact any historic resources. No vote was necessary.

##### **4-6 Bromfield Street: Informal Discussion**

Stephanie Niketic and Tom Kolterjahn brought to the attention of the Commission members the extent of work being done at 4-6 Bromfield Street. It appears that more demolition has taken place than was shown on the plans presented to the NHC. The Zoning Enforcement Officer has indicated the work was approved by the ZBA. The findings the ZBA issued stated the structure has no market value. Ms. Niketic said the applicant had not made this claim and the findings are not consistent with the discussions that took place at ZBA meetings.

##### **CPA Project – Historic Structures Survey Update**

A discussion took place about the use of the CPA funds that were awarded in 2016 for the hiring of a consultant to update the historic structures survey. No action has been taken since the time of the award.

##### **Correspondence**

An announcement was received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission of the beginning of the FY2020 Survey and Planning Grant Cycle.

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**5. Minutes**

Ron Ziemba moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019, meeting as submitted. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Adjournment**

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ron Ziemba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.