

Newburyport Historical Commission

October 24, 2019

Police Station Conference Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Glenn Richards called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. General Business

Jessica and Christopher Halpin

60 Marlboro Street

Demolition Delay Historic Significance Determination

The applicant is proposing to remove a one-story addition at the rear of the structure. The addition sits on metal pilings and might have originally been constructed as a back porch. Plans for the replacement structure have not yet been submitted, but would include a first-floor mudroom and a second-story bathroom. Patricia Peknik moved that the structure is historically significant. Ron Ziemba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Rail Trail Phase 3 Parker Street Trail project

At the October 10 meeting, the Commission members reviewed the plans for linking the second and third phases of the Rail Trail, which would involve the crossing of Route 1 near the traffic circle. A vote was not taken at that time. Glenn Richards moved that the proposed work on the Rail Trail in the vicinity of the traffic circle would not negatively impact any historic resources. Patricia Peknik seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Survey Grant

Glenn Richards met with Zoning Administrator Jennifer Blanchet about the historic building inventory work for which CPA funds had been obtained. The first step would be to identify those buildings for which a survey has not been done, which would mostly be accessory structures. A consultant would be hired to complete the inventory forms for these structures.

4-6 Bromfield Street Discussion

The members discussed the procedural issues that resulted in a more extensive demolition at 4-6 Bromfield Street than had been approved. The findings the ZBA chair issued stated the structure had no market value, but the applicant had not made this claim and had not filed the forms to support such an argument. The ZBA members as a whole will now review the findings before they are issued. For their part, the Historical

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Commission members should take care to be very specific when crafting advisory review decisions.

Correspondence

A letter was received from MHC regarding the conveyance of the garage at the Armory property to the City.

4. Minutes

Patricia Peknik moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2019, meeting as submitted. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Adjournment

Christopher Fay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Ron Ziemba seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.