

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 16 December 2010 Meeting

1. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) was called to order at 7:40 in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Linda Smiley, Ned McGrath, Tom Kolterjahn, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Stephen Feige.

2. Old Business – Coombs Wharf

Pieter Hartford, project manager, with Bill Harris, Chapter 91 Citizens Committee, said that while digging another section for a drain pathway another two granite capped stones had been removed. As of the 16th, twenty-four feet of wall had been excavated under an archaeologist's observation while one hundred and forty eight had been removed before. Mr. Harris distributed a draft from the Committee changing the date in a request not to remove more stones. Mr. Hartford had spoken to the Sewer Commission who agreed to conditions previously set by the Historical Commission including above ground granite markers; the details of the placement of the markers remain to be settled. The archaeologist Tim Barker said that he should be present when the electrical lines were laid. Mr. Harris thanked Mr. Hartford for his cooperation throughout the project. Mr. Hartford said that most of the delays incurred were not due to the historic investigation. Mr. Harris distributed a photocopy of an early photograph of the William Coombs house since demolished.

3. Correspondence Received

Re: Bulkhead of American Yacht Club -- MHC in a 13 December letter to the Army Corps of Engineers said that the project had no adverse effect.

4. Preservation Restrictions

St. Anna's Chapel, St. Paul's Church – Bronson DeStadler discussed the recreation of the trefoil window molded in epoxy by Newburyport artist Jeffrey Briggs. Room for the expansion of the lead and glass was planned. NHC member Kolterjahn advised regular checking of the caulking.

Meeting ended 8:10.