

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Hall Auditorium
December 4, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Smiley called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Sarah White, Stephen Dodge, Mark Bilodeau, Ned McGrath, Margaret Welch and Malcolm Carnwath. Peter Binette was also in attendance.

3. Demolition Applications

Stephen and Kathleen Dodge

22 Union Street

Partial Demolition

Stephen Dodge presented plans to remove two ells that date from the 1950s from the rear of the structure. An eighteen-foot-wide addition would be constructed in their place. The addition would not be as wide as the original house and would be clearly separate from it.

Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote with Stephen Dodge abstaining.

Linda Smiley moved to recommend to the ZBA that the demolition be allowed. She said the sections that are to be removed are of a later period and were minor additions to the original structure. She said their demolition would be an improvement that would further the longevity of the house. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote with Stephen Dodge abstaining.

4. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting as submitted. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. General Business

Linda Smiley said the windows that have been installed at 37 Middle Street are not the same as were shown on the plans presented to the Commission. The new windows are two-over-one and are out of place with the six-over-six windows found on the remainder of the block. The Planning Board does not have jurisdiction over project because the plans were approved before the DOD was passed. The Commission did not have jurisdiction over doors and windows under the Demolition Ordinance. Peter Binette will review the plans that were submitted to the Zoning Board.

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Sarah White described the article she presented at the National Preservation Conference in Savannah, Georgia in November. She said the presentation focused on regulation and policy. She asked if there should be a new regulatory paradigm for historic preservation, given that local historic districts around the country are being dissembled.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.