

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
January 27, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Stephen Dodge and Mark Bilodeau. Ned McGrath was absent.

3. Demolition Applications

None

4. Advisory Review

Section 106 Review for the Newburyport Intermodal Parking Facility

The Commission members attended a site visit on January 23 with City Councilors Jared Eigerman and Bob Cronin. Mayor Holaday subsequently indicated the plans for the parking facility would be changed. The height of the proposed structure would be reduced and no land would be taken from abutters. Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority Administrator Joe Costanzo forwarded Sarah White an email from Kristen Wood at the Federal Transit Authority. Ms. Wood wrote the FTA would take the MVRTA Section 106 submittal dated December 23, 2015 that included the acquisition of additional property by the City out of review. The Commission therefore need not provide a letter indicating the impact of the taking on the historic assets in the National Register District.

Mr. Costanzo went on to write that as far as the MVRTA is concerned, the NHC shall have the opportunity to comment on the parking facility as it sees fit. Sarah White will contact Mr. Costanzo for clarification of this statement and to tell him the Commission wishes to comment on all aspects of the project.

Melvin Nagler, 37 Federal Street, thanked the Commission members for listening to the concerns of the abutters at the January 13 meeting and for attending a site visit.

Preservation Restriction for 6-8 Oakland Street

The Commission members need additional time to review the documents. Sarah White moved to table the item to the February 10, 2016 meeting. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Minutes

Sarah White moved to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sarah White moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Stephen Dodge abstaining.

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6. General Business

The final grant application for MHC funds for building surveys is due February 4 and the deadline for the application for matching CPC funds is February 11. Sarah White will prepare the documents.

7. Public Comment

Tom Kolterjahn, 64 Federal Street, suggested the Commission hire a local researcher to help with the writing of the many reports that are required due to the improving economy and the DOCD process. He said the more information is gathered, the better the chance of saving buildings.

8. Adjournment

Sarah White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next regular meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.