

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
February 21, 2013
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Linda Smiley at 7:30 p.m. She welcomed new member Sarah White.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Ned McGrath, Tom Kolterjahn, Margaret Welch, Bill Todd, Sarah White and Stephen Dodge.

3. Demolition Applications

George Haseltine

12 Oak Street

Full Building Demolition

Lisa Mead appeared for the applicant, who is proposing to demolish a c.1920 Greek Revival structure. According to a letter written by Malcom Carnworth the structure is of a later date than others in the neighborhood and has no important architectural or historical features. Mr. Carnworth said in his letter that the mechanical systems are dated and the structure was put together in part with recycled materials. Ned McGrath suggested that the photographs of the interior taken by Mr. Carnworth be added to the record.

Ms. Mead said the building would be replaced with one of a style similar to the original but with more detail consistent with other structures in the neighborhood. She added that Mr. Haseltine built another structure on the street that fits in well with its context. The height of the new structure would be only slightly greater than the existing and the roof pitch would be less aggressive. Linda Smiley made a general comment that a disturbing aspect to many demolitions is that, in addition to the loss of a historic building, the replacement structure is greatly out of scale with the neighborhood.

Tom Kolterjahn said the structure being proposed for demolition does not seem to be significant but he would like to view it within the context of the neighborhood. Because of timetable under which the Commission must function, the building must be determined to be historically significant at tonight's meeting, before the members are able to conduct a site visit. A site visit will be held on Saturday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Tom Kolterjahn moved that the building is historically significant and should be considered for preservation. Linda Smiley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A public hearing will be scheduled for March 21. The applicant will bring information on the height of the replacement structure and photographs of the interior to the next meeting, at which time the Commission members will discuss their observation of the structure from the site visit.

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4. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the February 7 meeting as submitted. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Tom Kolterjahn, Stephen Dodge and Sarah White abstaining.

5. Public Hearings

None

6. Other Business

Correspondence

A copy of a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Society to Janet Morris was received. The letter provided the agency's comments concerning the Preservation Restriction Agreement for 36 North Atkinson Street and confirmed that the premises qualifies for a perpetual preservation restriction under M. G. L. Chapter 184, Sections 31-33.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.