

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Hall Conference Room
April 2, 2015
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, Stephen Dodge, Margaret Welch, Malcolm Carnwath and Mark Bilodeau. Sarah White participated by telephone. Assistant Building Inspector Peter Binette was also in attendance.

3. Demolition Applications

Beacon Avenue Real Estate Trust

9 Beacon Avenue

Full Building Demolition

Lisa Mead represented the applicant, George Haseltine, who wishes to demolish a Victorian house and replace it with a slightly larger structure. Attorney Mead said the house is sided with vinyl and the windows are vinyl as well. She said the house is not in good condition and is not listed on the inventory. She added there are several houses of a similar style, some more elaborate, on nearby Lincoln Street. Linda Smiley pointed out that not every structure that could be deemed to be historically significant was included on the inventory. Certain structures were chosen for the list to represent a style.

Mark Bilodeau said the style of the house is that of a historic home. The historical significance of a structure would not be diminished by the presence of vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows. He said the house could be made attractive by the addition of proper windows and the removal of the vinyl siding. Sarah White pointed out a site visit usually takes place when a full building demolition is proposed. Malcolm Carnwath said he would like to see the house.

Linda Smiley opened the meeting to public comment. Tom Kolterjahn said the structure appears to be a solid one and he would like it to be preserved. The house is not structurally deficient and it is within the National Register District. He said a house should not be demolished and replaced with a new structure simply because it is small and modest.

Linda Smiley moved the structure is historically significant. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Linda Smiley, yes; Stephen Dodge, no; Margaret Welch, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes; Mark Bilodeau, yes; Sarah White, yes. The motion was approved.

A site visit will take place on Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m. A public hearing will be scheduled for the April 16 meeting.

4. Advisory Review

None

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5. Minutes

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting as amended. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Linda Smiley, abstain; Stephen Dodge, yes; Margaret Welch, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes; Mark Bilodeau, yes; Sarah White, abstain. The motion was approved.

6. Election of Officers

Mark Bilodeau moved to nominate Sarah White for chair. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Linda Smiley, yes; Stephen Dodge, yes; Margaret Welch, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes; Mark Bilodeau, yes; Sarah White, abstain. The motion was approved.

Sarah White moved to nominate Ned McGrath for vice chair. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Linda Smiley, yes; Stephen Dodge, yes; Margaret Welch, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes; Mark Bilodeau, yes; Sarah White, yes. The motion was approved.

Tom Kolterjahn thanked Linda Smiley for her many years of service to the Commission. He said members of the public do not realize the great number of hours that volunteers commit to public service.

7. General Business

The members discussed the windows that were installed at 37 Middle Street. Peter Binette said the Building Department only reviews windows for energy efficiency. At the time the application to alter the roofline was approved, the DOD was not in place. The windows had been shown on the plan but were not referenced in the opinion or the minutes of the meeting.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjournment

Margaret Welch moved to adjourn the meeting 8:06 p.m. Sarah White seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Linda Smiley, yes; Stephen Dodge, yes; Margaret Welch, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes; Mark Bilodeau, yes; Sarah White, yes. The motion was approved.