

Newburyport Historical Commission
Mayor's Conference Room
April 26, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:36 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Mark Bilodeau, Stephen Dodge and Ned McGrath. James Bone was also in attendance.

3. Advisory Review

Michael Cyros

6 Purchase Street

DCOD Advisory Review

The plans were not in the packet and the applicant did not attend the meeting.

4. General Business

Request for Letter of Support for the Firehouse

Ned McGrath moved to accept as written a letter in support of Society for the Development of Arts and Humanities for a Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit for the Old Market House. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Schedule of Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the NHC will take place on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. A joint meeting with Planning Board for the review of the plans for the parking garage is scheduled for May 17 at 7:00. The May 24 NHC meeting will be cancelled.

1690 House Preservation Restriction

The members discussed the letters concerning the 1690 House written by a member of the public, the Preservation Trust and the Building Department. Lisa Mead agreed the developer had not provided an itemized list of elements being removed from the structure, but said emails were sent to the Preservation Trust indicating certain items would be available. This requirement was a part of the special permit and is an issue to be considered by the Planning Board. The only issue within the purview of the Historical Commission is the preservation restriction.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has stated it would consider holding preservation restrictions on the interiors of structures, even when a structure is privately owned. It is not yet known if the MHC would hold a restriction on the 1690 House given the degree to which the historic features have been removed.

Attorney Mead said her client has offered \$25,000 to be placed in a fund for historic preservation projects in the city and has committed to installing interpretive signage at the Towle property. She amended the draft preservation restriction to include the requirement the roof, roofline, form, foundation, exposed beams and brick arches in basement shall not be changed. This requirement would be in addition to the preservation of the windows and shutters that was

Newburyport Historical Commission
April 26, 2017

already a part of the document.

The Commission members described the changes they would like to be made to the structure. The doors and window surrounds must be painted. The style of the door is not accurate for the period of the house. Carriage lights should be added. The chimneystacks from the basement to the top of the chimney, along with the fireboxes, should be added to the restriction. The vents in roof should be wrapped to match the color of the roof shingles and the vents from the house should be painted the color of the house. The surrounds on the new windows are too wide. This is particularly noticeable on the façade that faces the Towle building, where the new windows are adjacent to the two windows that were preserved. The width of the surrounds on all of the new windows on this façade and the Merrimac Street facade must be reduced. The style of the windows is not consistent throughout the structure; some are four over four while others are two over two. The original windows were narrower than the replacement windows. Attorney Mead said the applicant would replace the windows only if the installed ones are not consistent with those specified on the plans approved in 2007.

It was revealed at the meeting that while the three sets of pocket shutters referenced in the preservation restriction have been restored, they are not in place. The Commission members wish these to be reinstalled as originally positioned.

The language of the restriction shall be changed to indicate the preservation of the included interior features shall be required rather than recommended. A revised preservation restriction will be submitted to the Commission for further review at its May 10 meeting.

Mark Bilodeau commented the developer made certain promises that were not kept. He said when he suggested the sum of \$25,000 be considered in the negotiated settlement he did not realize the 1690 House was a part of a larger condominium complex. He now thinks the amount should be higher.

5. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting was tabled.

6. Adjournment

Stephen Dodge moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.