

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
April 6, 2012

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.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Applications

Adam Chase True

10 Payson Street

Roofline Change

The applicant wishes to increase the amount of living space in a 1930s craftsman style house by adding dormers. The height of a portion of the main roof would be raised 3.5 feet, although this change was not reflected in the drawings. The character of the roofline would not be altered. Ned McGrath moved that the house is historically significant. Tom Kolterjahn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Ned McGrath said the proposed changes are a compliment to the original design and would not adversely impact the streetscape. Linda Smiley moved to approve the plans. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nana and Denis Kennedy

4 Carter Street

Demolition of a Rear Mudroom

A small mudroom on wood pilings was added to the rear of a 1927 house in the 1930s or 1940s. The applicant wishes to increase the size of the kitchen and add a half bath by removing the mudroom and replacing it with a larger addition on a foundation. The roofline would not be changed. The work would not be visible from the street. Tom Kolterjahn moved that the house is historically significant. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Tom Kolterjahn said the change is a modest one that does not adversely impact the character of the house. He moved to allow the demolition as proposed. Linda Smiley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Geno Ranaldi

17 Titcomb Street

Demolition of a Front Porch

Representatives of the Honkla Construction Corporation appeared for applicant. The roof of the front porch, which functioned as a deck, collapsed and porch was removed. Gary Calderwood was notified of the demolition after the fact. The applicant's representatives said the porch's columns were not salvageable and water had damaged the porch floor. Tom Kolterjahn said the porch had a nice presence on the street. Linda Smiley asked that

April 6, 2012

the appearance of the porch be reproduced, with the columns, cornice and shape of the roof being retained. She moved that the structure is historically significant. Tom Kolterjahn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. It was agreed that the deck railing would be removed and the deck would be replaced with a roof with trim that matches the configuration of the original. The columns would be replaced and the use of fiberglass columns would be acceptable. The granite foundation would be retained and the floor of the porch would be of wood or synthetic wood. Commission members recommended that the second floor door, which is not longer operable, be replaced with a window, although they could not require that this change be made. Tom Kolterjahn moved to approve the demolition according to the specifications that Linda Smiley will outline to the Building Commissioner. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Aileen Graf, Graf Architects

51 High Street

Demolition of a Barn and the Change of the Roofline on a Rear Ell

Aileen Graf represented the new owners of an 1820 Federal home with a mansard roof. The property includes a freestanding barn that is the same age as the house. The applicant wishes add a third story to the ell and replace the mansard roof with a hipped one, doubling the amount of living area to 10,000 square feet. The front entrance is to be retained, but the street elevation would be changed by the addition of a conservatory on the left side and a screen porch on the right. The applicant also wishes to cover the entire structure in brick and to remove the barn and replace it with a garage. Tom Kolterjahn said there are very few mansard roofs in the city. In response to the suggestion by the applicant's representative that the house be returned to its Federal roofline, he said the change to a mansard roof was an early one and was nicely done. The edge of the mansard roof is distinctive and should be retained. Ned McGrath said the proposed changes would be massive and connected to the structure in such a way that the original would no longer be detectible. Linda Smiley said any addition in the amount of living space should take place behind the ell, where it would be away from the existing structure. She summarized the Commission members' comments by saying: 1) the barn should not be demolished, but it might be moved, 2) the main portion of the house, that which is under the mansard roof, should not be covered in brick, 3) the ell should be retained and 4) any expansion of the structure behind the ell might be of brick in order that it is distinguishable from the original. Linda Smiley moved that the structure is historically significant. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A site visit will take place on Thursday April 12, at 6:30 p.m.

4. Correspondence

A letter was received from Michael Mroz thanking the Commission members for their support of the application for CPA funding for repairs to the Custom House.

5. Adjournment

Tom Kolterjahn moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.