

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
Minutes of the June 17, 2010 Meeting

**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, Leah McGavern and Margaret Welch.

**3. CPA**

**Saint Anna's Chapel**

Bronson de Stadler discussed the ongoing work being done on Saint Anna's Chapel. The wooden window frames have been repaired and had been ready to accept the stained glass when a leak was found during the spring storms. It was determined that rain was coming in through the masonry. The masonry at the back of the chapel has now been redone and the leak has been resealed. Specialized flashing is being installed above the windows before the stained glass is returned. Linda Smiley said care should be taken to make sure nothing is fastened through the flashing; the windows could be fastened instead through the jambs. The side of the structure facing the river has been re-pointed and it must be decided if the entire building must be done. Cement finials have been fabricated to replace the original sandstone ones that have been lost. The Commission must approve the work because it holds a preservation restriction on the structure. The permission was granted. A trefoil window was blown out many years ago and the restoration committee would like to recreate it. A polymer frame would be preferable to a wooden one as it would not need to be painted and the change in material would not be distinguishable from the ground. Leaded glass would be used for the window. Commission members agreed there could be flexibility with regards to what replaces the window because there is very little historical evidence about the original.

**4. Demolition Applications**

**19 Eagle Street**

Vanessa Traniello and Erik Kaminski

At the June 13 meeting the members of the Commission voted that the house is historically significant. Tom Kolterjahn said the design that has been presented obscures the original structure. The proposed plans would change the massing and shape of the original house. Additions to neighboring houses, such as at 16 Eagle Street, have been done in such a way that the integrity of the original building has been retained. It is preferable for additions to be lower than the original structure and set back from it in order that its shape be retained. The applicants agreed to make these changes. They must submit a revised set of plans before the Commission is able to vote on the demolition application. The Commission is not concerned about how the addition would impact the rear of the structure, nor with the hipped roof at the front entrance, which the applicants wish to replace with a flat one. The applicants may return with the revised drawings at either of the July meetings.

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## **8 Harrison Street**

Philip Giunta

The Commission received a letter from the applicant stating he does not intend to attend any public hearing held on the demolition application. The application was received on May 20. A public hearing will be scheduled for the July 1 meeting.

## **5. Advisory Review**

### **223 High Street**

Lynnea Thody of Blatman, Bobrowski and Mead represented the owners of 223 High Street, who have submitted a subdivision proposal to the Planning Board. Tom Kolterjahn said he has become concerned about the proposal and its impact on the historic structure. The view of the house would be blocked. Margaret Welch said the space is not big enough for the number of proposed structures. The plan calls for four new houses to be built in front of the original house, between it and High Street. She also said the setting of the house is very important. Linda Smiley said the preservation restriction would not offset the impact to the historic structure and she does not support the plan. The applicant would place a preservation restriction on the house in exchange for the open space requirement being reduced from 60% to 50%. The Commission might comment that it would hold the restriction if asked, but that it does not agree with the plan and would advise a different layout. There is a concern that the plan could be repeated at other High Street properties with large front yards, altering the streetscape. The issue will be discussed further at the July 1 meeting.

## **6. Minutes**

Tom Kolterjahn moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2010 meeting an amended. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **7. New Business**

- The City has recognized Tom Kolterjahn for his work on the Powder House.

### **• Treasurer's Report**

Leah McGavern reported that the FY2011 budget includes \$1,800 for minute taking and there is \$800 remaining from last year's budget. Over \$3,000 is in the Commission's account from demolition application fees. This might be used for legal advice.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.