

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
City Council Chambers  
July 16, 2015  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Mark Bilodeau. Assistant Building Inspector Peter Binette was also in attendance.

**3. Demolition Applications**

None

**4. Advisory Review**

None

**5. General Business**

First Republic Corporation had agreed to donate the barn on the Towle property as a part of a special permit for a condominium development. The barn was to be moved to Cashman Park and made suitable for use by the City. The City Council had approved of the plan and the ownership of the barn was transferred to the City. The project was delayed and now the plans are being revised slightly. The corporation has asked to be released from its obligation to move the barn on the grounds it would be too costly. The corporation has requested the ownership of the property be transferred back so that the barn might be demolished or converted to living space. The City Council Planning and Development Subcommittee is considering the request.

The Planning Department asked NHC to write a letter of support for the adaptive reuse of the structure. The Commission does not have purview over the building and has no official role in the project.

Tom Kolterjahn said it is likely some of the windows in the barn were from the original structure and should be preserved for use at another location in the city. He recommended the Massachusetts Historical Commission be informed NHC approves of the adaptive reuse.

Sarah White moved to submit a positive letter to the Planning Department stating NHC approves of the adaptive reuse of the barn and recommends the windows be saved. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Minutes**

Mark Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting as submitted. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**7. Other Business**

A meet and greet with members of NHC and the Zoning Board will take place on Tuesday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. The event has been planned to allow the members of both groups to gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities the boards.

Peter Binette said the work on the French Church is nearing completion and the brickwork on the original façade was done well. All of the original architectural features were saved. The roof has been removed from the Lombardi building. On July 20 the former Kathy Ann's bakery is to be demolished. The remainder of the Lombardi building is to be demolished after this work has been completed. Work on three structures is taking place under the City's housing rehabilitation program. All three of the projects involve historic structures. On Jefferson Street an original front door and its transom will be retained and fitted with energy efficient glass. On Purchase Street slate is to be reinstalled after a roof has been repaired.

**8. Adjournment**

Sarah White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.