

Newburyport Historical Commission
Joint Meeting with Planning Board
City Hall Auditorium
July 5, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sarah White called a special meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath and Stephen Dodge. Ned McGrath and Mark Bilodeau were absent.

3. General Business

City of Newburyport

83 Merrimac Street and 90 Pleasant Street

Advisory Review for DOD Special Permit

The Newburyport Historical Commission has design review purview over special permit applications in the Downtown Overlay District. The members of the Commission had previously determined the removal of the former Fitness Factory building would not negatively impact the historic assets in the National Register Historic District surrounding it. Andy Port reviewed the changes the design team made to the plans for the parking garage based on comments from the May 17 meeting. A fourth window was added to the Merrimac Street façade. The window on the corner was changed to match the one above it. The windows on the west and south facade were modified to be of the same style as those on the remainder of the structure. Paneling was added at the storefront level. Stephen Dodge asked if the windows on the Brown Square façade could be made less contiguous. Andy Port responded the spacing between the windows was minimized for security purposes. Samples of the proposed materials were circulated. The colors and textures were chosen to match those found in the downtown. The colors of the brick and mortar were acceptable to the Commission members. Plans for lighting and signage will be considered at a later date but before a building permit is issued. Sarah White said positive changes have been made since the design for the structure was first presented. She said the design is a good one for the role of the structure. Stephen Dodge moved for the NHC to recommend that the Planning Board approve the DOD special permit. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Adjournment

Sarah White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.