

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Hall Conference Room
August 10, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:33 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Demolition Applications

None

4. Advisory Review

None

5. General Business

190 High Street Preservation Restriction

The owner of 190 High Street wishes to sell the main structure and to occupy the carriage house. A deck would be added to the back of the accessory structure, which had been previously restored, and the windows would be changed to be consistent with those on the rear façade. The property owner is seeking a Section 6(C) permit from the Planning Board because he may wish to rent the carriage house in the future. He would like to place a preservation restriction on the façade of the carriage house to satisfy the public benefit requirement of the Section 6(C) permit.

Sarah White moved to accept a preservation restriction on the carriage house in perpetuity as a part of the Planning Board 6(C) process and to authorize the Chair to work with the applicant to draft the language of the restriction. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion on the 106 Submission to FTA/MHC for the City/MVRTA Parking Garage at the Former Fitness Factory Site

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority requested the Commission provide a letter indicating the demolition of the Fitness Factory building would not adversely impact the National Register District in order to secure \$2 million in Federal funding for the parking garage during the current grant cycle.

The members and Andy Port reviewed a letter Sarah White drafted stating that while the NHC continues to assert its position the loss of the Fitness Factory building would not adversely impact the National Register Historic District, the Commission maintains its position that significant work must be done on the design of the parking garage to reach the point at which it would be in keeping with the city's historic character.

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Firehouse Center for the Arts

The Planning Board accepted all of the conditions the Commission recommended be placed on the work to re-point the bricks on the Firehouse tower, including the recommendation the application of a coating be evaluated by a expert on historic bricks.

5. Minutes

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016 meeting as submitted. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Sarah White moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.