

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
August 1, 2013
Minutes

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, Ned McGrath, Margaret Welch and Bill Todd.

3. Demolition Applications

Chris Ragusa

59 Bromfield Street

Demolition of Rear Additions

Mr. Ragusa said he wishes to demolish the two additions made to the rear of the 1810 structure. He said the additions were poorly constructed, are too close together and have inadequate footings. He wishes to convert the property from a five-unit to a two-unit dwelling and replace the additions with a single low one on the same footprint. Linda Smiley encouraged him to save the windows that appear to be original and said the Commission would want the chimneys to be retained. Margaret Welch said the additions to be demolished are not integral to the historic structure and the planned addition is a sympathetic one. Linda Smiley said the additions proposed for demolition do not complement the structure and their removal could be seen as a benefit.

Ned McGrath moved that the structure is historically significant. Linda Smiley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Linda Smiley moved to allow the demolition of the two rear additions. Margaret Welch seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. General Business

Review of Preservation Restriction for Congregation Ahavas Achim

Margaret Welch said the façade should be defined as the four exterior faces of the structure collectively. She complemented the members of the congregation for their work on the restriction. She added that the Community Preservation Committee should be acknowledged for its provision of the funding that made the work possible.

5. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting as submitted. Bill Todd seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Linda Smiley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Ned McGrath seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.