

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
September 18, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Smiley called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Linda Smiley, Malcolm Carnwath, Stephen Dodge, Mark Bilodeau, Ned McGrath, Margaret Welch and Sarah White. Peter Binette was also in attendance.

3. General Business

386 High Street

Preservation Restriction

Nick Cracknell represented the applicant. He said he worked with the Preservation Trust to draft the preservation restrictions that would be attached to a variance for the 1790 house. Linda Smiley said the project is a wonderful one and she appreciates the amount of care and attention that went into the drafting of the restriction. She said she reviewed the pertinent sections of the document and found it to be complete. Sarah White said the project is an example of how things should be done. She requested that a photograph accompany each of the items in the restriction.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the preservation restriction contingent upon the receipt of the accompanying photographs as requested. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Public Hearing

Wojcicki Holdings, LLC

143A State Street

Bob Gagliardi represented the applicant, who wishes to fully demolish the existing structure. He said that in addition to it being structurally unsound, he believes the building lacks any historically significant features, which would prevent it from meeting the intended purposes of the demolition bylaw. He added that while the replacement structure would be 700 square feet larger than the existing one, the dimensions of the foundation would only be minimally increased.

Linda Smiley opened the hearing to comments from the public. No one from the public spoke either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed plans.

Mark Bilodeau said he is in favor of the structure being demolished. Linda Smiley said not many structures of this style remain in the city, but the structural damage is extensive.

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Linda Smiley moved to allow the demolition of 143A State Street. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. General Business Continued

2 Orange Street

The Commission members reviewed the revised sketches for the structure at 2 Orange Street that were distributed by Patrick Reddy. They were pleased with the changes he made to the plans based on their recommendations. The Orange Street portion of the structure, the chimneys and the window pattern will now be retained. Mr. Reddy agreed to submit to plans to the Commission showing the revisions as discussed. After the plans have been received, a revised letter will be sent to the ZBA. Mr. Reddy will contact Tom Kolterjahn about the authenticity of adding pediments to the structure.

33 Middle Street

Brick Re-pointing

Matt Gillard of Colonial Brickworks said the horizontal mortar joints would be removed with a grinder, while the vertical joints would be removed by hand. Lime mortar would be used. The bricks that are missing would be replaced with others that match the original as closely as possible.

Linda Smiley said the Commission does not favor the use of grinders, as they can break the bricks. She asked about the thickness of the joints on the façade that had been previously re-pointed. Mr. Gillard said the width of the joints is the result of the amount of mortar that was used and the top and bottom of the bricks had not been cut.

Ned McGrath commented that Mr. Gillard is proposing to use quality products and the tools in a sensitive manner.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the work with the techniques and materials as presented. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Minutes

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting as submitted. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Linda Smiley moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2014 meeting as amended. Sarah White seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.