

Newburyport Historical Commission

Minutes of the 2 September 2010 Meeting

1. Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission (NHC) was called to order at 7:40 in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Present: Linda Smiley, Ned McGrath (late), Tom Kolterjahn, Leah McGavern, and Margaret Welch. Absent: Stephen Feige.

2. Advisory Review

Newburyport Post Office -- Bob McLeod of McKinnell, McKinnell, & Taylor presented plans for the roof and masonry restoration of the Post Office. Although the brick walls had been built well, the facades need repointing. He spoke of significant water penetration, much of it beneath the roof's marble balustrade. A new rubber roof will be installed, and the broken balustrade will be repaired with new joints and dowels. Five broken slates will be repaired. Chair Smiley wanted the specifications of testing the present mortar made clearer. Member Kolterjahn, after discussing the difficulty in repairing slates properly, said that the project was "doing the right thing." The NHC voted (4 yes, 2 absent) to write a letter saying the project had no adverse effect after the specification about the mortar was revised.

3. New Business

Belleville Congregational Church Preservation Restriction – Herb and Dorothy Williamson briefly discussed the draft. The NHC members will review the draft, note what architectural elements should be specifically noted, and vote on the PR next meeting.

Green Communities/Stretch Code – Molly Ettenborough, Sarah Holden, and Mike Strauss of the Energy Advisory Committee discussed the impact of the Stretch Code on historic structures. Building Inspector Gary Calderwood explained that any house over five years could be exempted if requested from the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector puts a notice in the file about the exemption. Planning Director Andy Port noted that the City of Cambridge had a FAQs about historic buildings and the Stretch Code on its website. Mr. Calderwood said that new additions must meet IECC 2009. The NHC voted to write a letter to City Council saying that the new Stretch Code would not adversely impact historic structures.

4. Review of Minutes

Review of 19 July deferred. 5 August minutes approved (4 yes, 1 absent, 1 abstention).

Meeting ended 8:45.