

Newburyport Historical Commission
City Council Chambers
September 28, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. General Business

190 High Street Preservation Restriction

Ted and Jenny Nelson are seeking a Section 6(C) permit from the Planning Board in order to add a third unit to the property and convert the carriage house to a living space. At the August 10 meeting the Commission voted to accept a preservation restriction on the front façade of the carriage house in perpetuity as a part of the 6(C) process. The Planning Board subsequently required the preservation restriction be placed on the main house as well. The owners wish to make the side deck narrower in order to accommodate parking. The restriction would allow a synthetic material to be used for the decking while requiring the railings, balusters and lattice be of wood. The side deck was not original to the house but was added in 1890. An addition was constructed on the house during the Victorian era. The owners wish to apply a cement board siding, such as Hardie Board, to this addition, as well as to install a mini split that might be visible from the street.

Ned McGrath moved to accept the proposal from the property owners and to write a letter to the Planning Board recommending the preservation restriction placed on the house be as broad as possible. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Request for Letter of Support for Historic Tax Credit Program
Firehouse Center for the Arts**

Albert Rex of MacRostie Historic Advisors said in Massachusetts non-profit organizations are able to apply for a historic tax credit. In order to be qualified for the tax credit, the structure must be eligible for listing in the National Register, the rehabilitation work must exceed 25% of the value of the building when it was acquired and the work must meet the standards of the Secretary of the Interior. Three letters of support must be included with the application package. One of these must be from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, one from Preservation Massachusetts and one from the local historical commission.

Ned McGrath moved to authorize the Chair to write a letter of support for the Firehouse tax credit application. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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4. Correspondence

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority acknowledged the receipt of a letter from the NHC reiterating its position the demolition of the Fitness Factory building would not adversely impact the National Register Historic District. The NHC letter also contained the statement that significant work must be done on the design of the parking garage to make it in keeping with the city's historic character.

5. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the August 24 meeting was tabled.

6. Adjournment

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Mark Bilodeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.