

## **Newburyport Historical Commission**

March 24, 2022

Online Meeting

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Glenn Richards called an online meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Joe Morgan, Glenn Richards, Peter McNamee, Christopher Fay, Marc Cendron and Andrew Bernhardt. Malcolm Carnwath was absent. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port, Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

### **3. Demolition Delay Public Hearings**

#### **9 Barton Street**

Ben Taylor and Aileen Graf represented the applicant. According to the district data sheets, the structure was constructed in 1885. The one-story bump-out addition at its rear did not appear on the 1924 Assessor's map, but was included in the 1968 records from that office.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is historically significant and considered for preservation. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).

The 6.1 foot by 8.3 foot bump out was built on wooden posts and is in poorer condition than the remainder of the structure. It would be replaced with a 6.1 foot by 14.4 foot two-story addition. The net addition to the footprint would be 37 square feet. The addition would not be as tall as the original structure and would not be visible from the street. No changes are being proposed for the structure's front or side facades.

The existing third-floor rear windows in the original structure would be replaced by French doors that would provide access to a roof deck on the top of the addition. The siding of the addition would match the wood clapboards on the main structure. The windows in the structure have been replaced and the windows in the addition would match them.

No one from the public spoke in favor of or in opposition to the application. The Commission members noted that the appearance of the proposed window in the second floor bathroom is awkward but otherwise had no comments on the proposed plans.

Andrew Bernhardt moved that the structure is preferably preserved. Joe Morgan seconded. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).

Joe Morgan moved to approve the plans as submitted and lift the Demolition Delay. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).

#### **4. CPA Applications**

##### **Bartlet Mall Frog Pond Restoration**

Chuck Griffin represented the Parks Commission. The goal of the Commission is to restore the Mall to its 1890 appearance. The improvement of the quality of the water in the pond is the focus of the current CPA application. In 2021, CPA funds were granted for the restoration of the fountain and consulting and engineering services. Mr. Griffin said the pond is stagnant and the level of its water fluctuates. The water is unhealthy for wildlife.

The plans to improve the quality of the water in the pond were outlined in a letter submitted by Kim Turner. Mr. Griffin said a pipe under High Street would act as a drain when water levels are high. Wells would provide water to the ponds when its levels are low.

Joe Morgan researched the granite curbing that is being considered for the edge of the pond. The curbing is not a part of the scope of work of the current CPA application and was not a part of the Charles Elliot plan of 1887. In 1889, residents of Newburyport nonetheless voiced their preference for the addition of curbing around the pond to control the water level and protect it from erosion. On this basis, the Commission members could support the inclusion of granite curbing in the restoration plans.

Marc Cendron moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the CPC that expresses support for the application. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).

##### **Heritage Tree Preservation**

Ghlee Woodworth described the plans to preserve the trees in Old Hill Cemetery. She said the cemetery was established in 1842 and the trees were planted during the 1860s. Some of the original trees are still existing and a dozen of the trees in the cemetery are over 200 years old. The mixture of species in the cemetery is impressive. The cemetery is used frequently for passive recreation. The popular spot receives many visitors and is often toured by school groups.

Christopher Fay moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the CPC that expresses support for the application. Peter McNamee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).

#### **5. Minutes**

Joe Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the March 10 meeting. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, abstain; Andrew Bernhardt, abstain).

#### **6. Adjournment**

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Peter McNamee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes).