

## **Newburyport Historical Commission**

March 28, 2024

Online Meeting

Minutes

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

Vice Chair Biff Bouse called an online meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Biff Bouse, Andrew Bernhardt, Marc Cendron, Christopher Fay, Chris Sawtelle and Ed Noymer (non-voting) and alternate member Allen Marquis (voting). Glenn Richards attended a portion of the meeting remotely. Also in attendance were Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

### **3. Demolition Delay Applications**

#### **a) 74 Purchase Street**

David Keery represented the applicant, who is proposing to remove a one-story addition on a Greek Revival style house that was built in 1840.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is historically significant. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, absent; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).

Andrew Bernhardt moved that the structure is considered for preservation. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, absent; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).

David Keery presented the proposed plans. A two-story addition would be constructed on the left side of the structure that would be visible from the street. The ridgeline of the addition would be parallel to the street and would be lower than that of the main structure. There would be a gap between the ridge of the addition and the roof of the main structure. A one-story addition would be constructed at the rear of the structure. One chimney would be removed. Mr. Keery said the two-story ell on the right of the structure and the main portion of the house would remain intact. The siding, window pattern and trim details of the addition would differentiate it from the main structure.

Marc Cendron said the roofline of the addition would not integrate it with the main structure. The door and the small windows in the addition would create a lack of symmetry with the ell. The addition would be large and symmetry would help to integrate it with the remainder of the structure. Mr. Kerry responded he made the decision about the roofline to differentiate the addition from the main structure. The same decision was made for the details, which give the addition a more modern look. The small windows were selected for the bathroom to provide privacy.

Christopher Fay said the addition would create a wing that would compromise the integrity of the historic structure. It would extend 7.5 feet from the side of the structure, while the ell on the right side extends 4 feet.

Allen Marquis and Chris Sawtelle both commented on the lack of symmetry, saying the addition is out of balance and distracts from the original style of the house. Mr. Kerry responded that symmetry is not always found in Green Revival structures. It would not be apparent from the street that the two sides of the structure are asymmetrical.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is preferably preserved. Chris Sawtelle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes; Glenn Richards, abstain).

#### **4. DCOD Advisory Review**

##### **a) 311 Merrimac Street**

Christopher Fay moved to approve the report Glenn Richards prepared on the historical significance of the structure and its relative importance in the context of the neighborhood. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).

#### **5. General Business**

##### **a) Correspondence**

##### **14 Payson Street**

A letter was received from the Zoning Administrator indication the applicant has revised the plans. The new proposal would not involve a roofline change and would no longer be under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Glenn Richards moved to lift the Demolition Delay on the basis of the revised plans. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).

#### **6. Updates from the Chair**

None

#### **7. Minutes**

Andrew Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the March 28 meeting. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).

#### **8. Adjournment**

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Chris Sawtelle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Allen Marquis, yes).