

## **Newburyport Historical Commission**

May 25, 2023

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 Joe Morgan, Biff Bouse, Chris Sawtelle, Andrew Bernhardt, Christopher Fay, Marc Cendron and Glenn Richards. Also in attendance were Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

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

#### **18 Rawson Avenue**

Scott Brown represented the applicant. He said the house was constructed in 1948 and, like many other structures in the neighborhood, lacks character-defining features. The project has been under construction for several weeks. The original plans are being reconsidered due to conditions discovered during construction.

Prior to construction, a roofline change had not been proposed. It was discovered during construction that the roofline and second-floor framing members are inadequate and must be upgraded. The structural changes would make the existing ceiling heights inadequate. The applicant is now proposing to remove and rebuild the roof. The height of the roof would increase approximately 19 inches.

The meeting was opened to comments from the public. Nancy-Jean Eagan, 6 Tilton Street, said the proposed addition appears to be very close to the abutting structure. The Commission members informed her that the ZBA has purview over setbacks and she would have the opportunity to comment when the item is on the agenda for a meeting of that Board. Scott Brown said the proposed addition would meet the 10-foot setback requirement.

Kolby Parker, 3 Tilton Street, asked the reason that the proposed addition at the rear of the structure would have required review for a roofline change. He was told the addition would not impact the roofline of the main structure.

Joe Morgan moved the structure is historically significant and considered for preservation. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was failed by a 3-4 vote, as four affirmative votes are needed for a motion to pass. (Glenn Richards, no; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, no; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Christopher Fay, no; Marc Cendron, no).

### **4. Updates from the Chair**

Glenn Richards said revisions are being made to the draft preservation restriction for the Old Gaol. The Commission must review the document and many of the current members have been appointed since its initial presentation. A site visit was tentatively scheduled for June 10 at 10:00.

**5. Minutes**

Joe Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the May 11 meeting. Glenn Richards seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, abstain).

**6. Other Business**

The members briefly discussed a return to in-person meetings. While some members would like the opportunity to deliberate in person, others expressed an interest in hybrid meetings.

**7. Adjournment**

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Glenn Richards seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Chris Sawtelle, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).