

Newburyport Historical Commission

July 8, 2021

Online Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Glenn Richards called an online meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Demolition Delay

10 Sylvester Street

Douglas Deschenes represented the applicant, who is proposing to change the roofline of a single-family house built around 1930. A new addition to a structure would be constructed that would include a third floor, an attached garage, a farmer's porch and a pool house. The existing front entrance would be removed. The height of the new ridge would be 34.5 feet. The siding would be cementitious and asphalt shingles would be installed on the roof. The proposed chimney is not a part of the existing house and would be clad with a brick or stone veneer. The existing detached garage would be demolished. This accessory structure less than 100 years old and review is not required for its demolition.

Stephen Paciulan said the house has been updated many times and its architecture is not noteworthy. It is significant to the history of his family but not to the history of the city. He is seeking approval for a roofline change to add bathrooms, closets, private meeting rooms and an updated kitchen.

Patricia Peknik said she likes to see photographs of the neighboring houses and encouraged members to visit a neighborhood prior to the consideration of an application. She said the role of the Commission is to preserve the size and massing of the streetscape. Sylvester Street is a small one with houses of a similar style and size.

Christopher Fay said the structure is not historically significant but other houses on the street are. These structures should not be dismissed because they are Capes.

Peter McNamee said he would like the application package to include photographs of the streetscape and readable drawings of the proposed structure. He does not agree that the structure is not historically significant and he would like to review the plans for the structure. Patricia Peknik said she would also like to review a complete application package.

Malcolm Carnwath moved the structure is historically significant. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 2-4 vote (Glenn Richards, no; Peter McNamee, yes; Marc Cendron, no; Christopher Fay, no; Patricia Peknik, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, no).

4. General Business

64 Purchase Street Preservation Restriction

The People's United Methodist Church was granted CPA funding for the repair of the steeple and other components of the structure. A preservation restriction is being placed on the structure to fulfill the public benefit requirement. MHC has forwarded a pre-signature approval letter.

Stephanie Niketic, 93 High Street, said the Church was awarded \$7,500 for the steeple in 2017. The work has been completed but the Church has not received the funds because the preservation restriction has not yet been approved. She said the Church has diligently sought MHC approval and is now asking for NHC approval.

Patricia Peknik moved to approve the draft preservation restriction for 64 Purchase Street and to forward it to the Mayor and City Council for their approval. Peter McNamee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Patricia Peknik, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes).

Duncan MacBernie thanked the NHC and Preservation Trust for their assistance with the document.

5. Updates from the Chair

None

6. Minutes

Christopher Fay moved to approve the minutes of the June 24 meeting. Patricia Peknik seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Patricia Peknik, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, abstain).

7. Adjournment

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Peter McNamee seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Patricia Peknik, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes).