

Newburyport Historical Commission

July 28, 2022
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 Joe Morgan, Marc Cendron, Glenn Richards, Christopher Fay 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 Applications

a) 26 Columbus Avenue

Lisa Mead represented the applicant and said the structure appears on the 1924 Assessor's map. It is not listed on the District Data Sheet and has no Form B. The applicant is proposing to remove a side sunroom that was original to the structure and a later-added rear mudroom.

Marc Cendron and Joe Morgan said the structure is not historically significant. Andrew Bernhardt said the structure is historically significant but there is no need to preserve it. Christopher Fay said the structure is historically significant due to its age and the merits of the plan should be reviewed.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is historically significant and considered for preservation. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 2 to 3 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, no; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, no; Marc Cendron, no). Four positive votes are required for a motion to pass.

b) 21 Chestnut Street

Eric Abramo said he is proposing to demolish 25 square-feet of the shed roof on a single-story rear addition to a structure that dates from 1875. The structure is listed as a minor contributor on the District Data Sheet.

Christopher Fay said the structure is historically significant due to its age but the proposed changes appear to be minor. Joe Morgan said the structure is located in the older portion of the city but does not have much to offer in terms of style. Andrew Bernhardt said the change is a minor one but is concerned about setting a precedent if the Commission determines the structure is not historically significant.

Joe Morgan moved that the structure is historically significant and considered for preservation. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 3 to 2 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, no; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, no). Four positive votes are required for a motion to pass.

4. General Business

a) Review of Proposed Preservation Restriction for 98 High Street

Glenn Richards said that a question MHC had about the restriction for the Cushing House has been resolved.

b) Review of Draft DOD Historical Report for Market Landing Park

Christopher Fay moved to approve the draft DOD Historical Report for 24 Merrimac Street. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

5. Correspondence

a) Project Notification Form for Newbury Rail Trail Connection

Received and filed.

b) Request for Comments for 37 1/2 Forrester Street

The item will be on the agenda for the August 11 meeting. The National Architectural Trust holds a preservation restriction on the structure and any changes to the telecommunications facility on its roof must be reviewed.

6. Minutes

Marc Cendron moved to approve the minutes of the July 14 meeting. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

7. Adjournment

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).