

Newburyport Historical Commission

August 11, 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 Glenn Richards, Christopher Fay, Biff Bouse and Andrew Bernhardt. Malcolm Carnwath was in attendance virtually but did not participate in the meeting. Joe Morgan and Marc Cendron were absent. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port, Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

Glenn Richards introduced new member Biff Bouse. Mr. Bouse said he studied urban design and has lived in Newburyport for four years. He chose to reside in the city because of its architecture and urban renewal history.

3. Demolition Delay Applications

a) 26 Eagle Street

The applicant requested a continuance. Andrew Bernhardt moved to continue the application to the August 25 meeting. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Biff Bouse, yes).

4. General Business

a) Review of Work subject to Preservation Restriction at 17 Titcomb Street

Christopher Ney, pastor of the Central Congregational Church, said the roof is leaking in the newer part of the building, which was built approximately 100 years ago. He said some of the leaks have been severe and have resulted in damage to the interior of the structure. Attempts to patch the roof have caused additional leaks. The leadership of the church is proposing to replace a portion of the asphalt shingles on the roof. The lower portion of the roof consists of a rubber membrane, which would also be replaced in kind. No work would be done to the roof on the Pleasant Street side of the structure or to the roof on the sanctuary.

Andrew Bernhardt moved to approve the work as proposed. Biff Bouse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Biff Bouse, yes).

b) Request for Comments for Telecommunications Facility at 37 1/2 Forrester Street

The item will be on the agenda for the August 25 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.

5. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the July 28 meeting was tabled.

6. Updates from the Chair

Glenn Richards said he reviewed the ordinance after the last meeting and he concluded it does not clearly define the process the Commission members should follow in making their determinations. The Commission could vote that a structure is not historically significant, historically significant but not considered for preservation or historically significant and considered for preservation. In the latter case, the plans would be reviewed, and if acceptable, would be released from the Demolition Delay. Even if changes appear to be minor, the plans should be reviewed for a structure that is of an appropriate age and condition.

7. Adjournment

Christopher Fay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Biff Bouse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Biff Bouse, yes).