

Newburyport Historical Commission

August 25, 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, Joe Morgan, and Marc Cendron. Malcolm Carnwath and Andrew Bernhardt were in attendance for the later portion of the meeting. Also in attendance were Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

3. Demolition Delay Applications

a) 26 Eagle Street

The applicant requested a continuance. Marc Cendron moved to continue the application to the September 8 meeting. Biff Bouse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, absent; Andrew Bernhardt, absent).

4. Correspondence

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

The item will be on the agenda for the September 8 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.

b) Market Landing Park Expansion Phase

A letter was received from MHC stating the staff has determined that the Market Landing Park Expansion Phase 1 project would have no adverse effect on the historic properties in the Newburyport Historic District, the Market Square Historic District or the Central Waterfront Archaeological District.

5. Minutes

Marc Cendron moved to approve the minutes of the July 28 meeting. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, abstain; Andrew Bernhardt, abstain; Biff Bouse, abstain).

Andrew Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the August 11 meeting. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, abstain; Joe Morgan, abstain; Marc Cendron, abstain).

6. Updates from the Chair

Glenn Richards said the Demolition Delay Ordinance Process Flowchart has been updated. Vote 1 has been separated into two parts. In Vote A, the Commission will determine whether or not a structure is historically significant. The process ends if the structure is determined not to be historically significant. In Vote B, the Commission will determine whether or not a historically significant structure is considered for preservation. If the Commission determines the structure is considered for preservation, a public hearing is opened and the demolition plan is reviewed. At the conclusion of the public hearing, Vote 2 will take place, in which the Commission will determine whether or not the structure is preferably preserved. If the structure is not preferably preserved, a demolition permit may be issued. If the structure is preferably preserved, the demolition delay is imposed. The applicant must wait 12 months before proceeding or may change the plans in a way that would be acceptable to the Commission.

Joe Morgan commented that it is helpful to have an accurate flowchart. Marc Cendron said phrasing a motion in the positive can be confusing. Glenn Richards will look into this further.

7. Adjournment

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Biff Bouse, yes).