

Newburyport Historical Commission

September 22, 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, Andrew Bernhardt, Biff Bouse, Joe Morgan, Marc Cendron and Christopher Fay. Malcolm Carnwath was absent. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port, Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

3. DOD/DCOD Advisory Review

6 Washington Street

Lisa Mead represented the applicant, who is requesting that the NHC submit to the Planning Board a written report on the significance of the historic building and its relative importance in its setting in the DOD. The structure was built around 1850, according to the Assessor's records. It is listed as "contributing" on the District Data Sheet and has a Form B. It is described as Italianate on the District Data Sheet and Renaissance Revival on the Form B. The property has belonged to two mayors of Newburyport. A two-story bumpout on the rear of the structure does not appear to be original and has been enlarged over time. It appears in a smaller form on the 1914 Sanborn map and the 1924 Assessor's map.

Attorney Mead said that while the Form B states the neighborhood is made up of 18th and 19th century homes, 8 Washington Street was constructed in the 1970s. There are single-family homes, multi-family apartment buildings and businesses in the neighborhood, and the Immaculate Conception parking lot and school is across the street.

The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing canopy over the side entrance to the structure and replace it with a 139 square-foot mudroom. The steps and landing would be removed. The side door, overhang and brackets would be removed and reused on the addition. One new bracket would be constructed to match the two existing brackets. A vinyl first-floor window would be removed. Its trim would be reused for a new wood window that would be installed in the location of the existing side door. The siding on the addition would be distinguished from the existing siding by being half its height.

Biff Bouse asked about material on the roof of the mudroom. Attorney Mead did not know the answer but said it would not be visible.

Marc Cendron confirmed that there are two entrances to the mudroom with two staircases. Attorney Mead did not know the reason for the two doors, but said she thinks the rear door would provide easy access to the back yard.

Joe Morgan said he does not think the existing coining has been accurately depicted on the plans. He said the drawing should be accurate and asked that the applicant verify the extent of the coining. He said the coining is a character-defining

feature and it should not be covered by the addition. He said the detailing of addition is not considerate of the remainder of the building. The proposed clapboards are being shown as extending to the ground. Instead, the water table and granite bottom should be reproduced. He said the design does not respect the quality and stature of the existing building. He said the proposed location of the mudroom might not be the best one and a less intrusive footprint might be found. He also asked that drawings of the north side of the structure be included in the application.

Christopher Fay said he agrees the mudroom should be constructed in the rear of the structure, which would be a less obtrusive location. He said the house is symmetrical and the side addition interrupts this.

Marc Cendron said the addition would destroy the symmetry of the building. It should be placed in a more discrete location.

Biff Bouse said the symmetry of the building is a concern. He said details of the building should be carried into the addition. The trim on the windows in the proposed addition would be very plain in relation to the windows in the structure.

Andrew Barnhardt agreed that the mudroom would be better located at the rear of the structure.

4. General Business

Market Landing Park Supplemental Review

Andy Port said the architect has refined the plans for the restroom facility for the expanded park based on comments that were received. Shingle siding and trim has been added to mimic the details from the Harbormaster's facility. The Planning Board requested a continuance to its October 5 meeting to receive more information from the design team.

Correspondence

A letter from Laurel Seneca and Brenda Leclerc, 7 Prince Place, regarding graffiti on Inn and Pleasant Streets was received and filed.

5. Minutes

Marc Cendron moved to approve the minutes of the September 8 meeting. Andrew Barnhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by 5-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, abstain).

6. Adjournment

Christopher Fay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Christopher Fay, yes).