

Newburyport Historical Commission

October 27, 2022

Online Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Glenn Richards called an online meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Glenn Richards, Andrew Bernhardt, Biff Bouse, Joe Morgan, Marc Cendron and Christopher Fay. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port, Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

3. DOD/DCOD Advisory Review

100 State Street

Walt Thompson described the proposal to add an overhang above a side entrance to a structure that was built around 1800 as a single-family house. The structure has been divided into several residential condominium units. The overhang would be located above the door to the applicant's unit on the right side of the structure, adjacent to the driveway, and would provide protection from the elements. The overhang would be 4'-6" wide and would extend 3'-6" from the building. It would be supported on either side by a bracket and would have a height of four feet.

Glenn Richards said most homes of the Federal period have a very shallow overhang above the front door, or an enhanced entrance with columns and a roof. Side entrances are typically enclosed or have a roof with columns. The proposed brackets are from a later architectural period and would not be appropriate for this structure. Mr. Thompson said he would be agreeable to installing a simpler bracket, such as the one over the side entrance at 346 High Street.

The Commission members were in general agreement that the style of the proposed brackets would not be appropriate for the structure. A roof supported by columns or lighter, simpler brackets would be preferable.

Joe Morgan asked if the problem requires a historically accurate solution. He commented that the brackets would not be historically accurate as a detail, but they would not detract significantly from the structure. He said it would be necessary to modify the landing to accommodate columns. He said the proposed overhang would be adequate, as it could be removed without damaging the structure.

Glenn Richards will prepare a report for the Planning Board on the historical significance of the structure and the impact of the proposal on its historic value.

4. General Business

Review of Draft Advisory Report for 6 Washington Street

Glenn Richards said further changes were made to the plans that have resulted in a slight improvement. The new construction has been further differentiated from the historic structure, but the siding of the addition still extends to the ground. The item will be on

the agenda of the November 2 Planning Board meeting. Commission members may voice their individual comments at that meeting or may submit them to the Planning Office.

5. Updates from the Chair

Glenn Richards provided an update on the preservation restriction for the Old Gaol. The Massachusetts Historical Commission had commented that the draft restriction departed too severely from the standard format and required that it be redone. The draft restriction has only recently been resubmitted. The item should be on the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

6. Minutes

Andrew Bernhardt moved to approve the minutes of the October 13 meeting. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Andrew Bernhardt, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, abstain; Christopher Fay, abstain).

7. Adjournment

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Andrew Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion was approved.