

## **Newburyport Historical Commission**

December 16, 2021

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, Glenn Richards, Peter McNamee, Christopher Fay, Marc Cendron and Malcolm Carnwath. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port, Planner Katelyn Sullivan and note taker Gretchen Joy.

### **3. Demolition Delay Applications**

#### **10 75th Street**

Lisa Mead and Rick Barnard represented the applicant, who is proposing to demolish a single-family home that was built around 1930. Attorney Mead said that the bottom of the house was engulfed in water during a recent storm and the first floor was filled with sand. The Building Inspector has determined the structure is uninhabitable. She said the building has been significantly changed over the years and has no remaining historical significance. Due to the amount of work that would be necessary to repair the structure, the regulations would require that it be put on pilings.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is historically significant. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 0-6 vote (Glenn Richards, no; Joe Morgan, no; Peter McNamee, no; Christopher Fay, no; Marc Cendron, no; Malcolm Carnwath, no).

#### **23 Overlook Street**

Lisa Mead represented the applicant, who is proposing to demolish a single-family home that was constructed around 1920. She said the structure is a single-story summer cottage with no period details of note. The ceilings are low and the floors slope. The foundation is marginal.

Christopher Fay moved that the structure is historically significant and preferably preserved. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 0-6 vote (Glenn Richards, no; Joe Morgan, no; Peter McNamee, no; Christopher Fay, no; Marc Cendron, no; Malcolm Carnwath, no).

### **4. Amended Demolition Plans**

#### **4 Plum Street**

Lisa Mead represented the applicant and requested a continuance. Some members said they would like to tour the inside of the structure. Attorney Mead said she would speak to the applicant but this would exceed the Commission's authority.

Peter McNamee moved to continue the public hearing to the January 13, 2022, meeting. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote (Glenn

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Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes).

**5. Correspondence**

Three letters were submitted with opinions about the proposed settlement for the Institution for Savings. The City Council has rejected the proposal. One letter was submitted expressing frustration that public comment was not allowed at the October 28 hearing on 22-24 Olive Street. Glenn Richards said public comment was taken at previous hearings and the sentiment of the neighbors was well understood.

**6. Minutes**

Joe Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the October 28 meeting. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes).

Joe Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the December 9 meeting. Christopher Fay seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, abstain; Malcolm Carnwath, abstain).

**7. Updates from the Chair or Planning Director**

Glenn Richards said a vote will be taken at the January 13 meeting for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. Joe Morgan has volunteered to represent the NHC on the CPC.

Andy Port said an opinion was published in the *Daily News* that black-framed windows are not appropriate in the historic district. He asked the members to advise the Planning Office if this is a concern that should be addressed in the guidelines or standards. Glenn Richards said this appears to be a trend mostly used in new construction. Black-framed vinyl windows are planned for 30 Winter Street. He said it can be jarring when both the sash and casing are painted a contrasting color. The Commission might be able to offer advice on treatments that would not be appropriate for historic structures.

**8. Adjournment**

Christopher Fay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Peter McNamee, yes; Christopher Fay, yes; Marc Cendron, yes; Malcolm Carnwath, yes).