

Newburyport Historical Commission

December 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, Joe Morgan, Marc Cendron and Biff Bouse. Christopher Fay and Andrew Bernhardt were absent. Also in attendance were Planning Director Andy Port and note taker Gretchen Joy.

3. Demolition Delay Applications

66-68 Washington Street

Glenn Richards explained that the four members present constitute a minimum quorum. A positive vote must be received from all four members in order for a motion to be approved. Lisa Mead represented the applicant and chose to proceed. She said the Italianate structure dates from 1870 according to the district data sheets. Maps show that it took on its existing form by 1924.

Marc Cendron moved that the structure is historically significant and considered for preservation. Biff Bouse seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

The applicant is proposing to remove the side entrance at the rear of the structure. It would be replaced with a new addition on a slightly larger footprint. A total of 489 square feet of living space would be added. The addition would fill in a space behind the original structure. It would be stepped in 2'-10" from the corner. A deck would be constructed on top of the addition. The addition would be clad in wood clapboards to match the original structure. Brackets would be added to complement those on the main portion of the house. The foundation of the addition would be concrete with a brick veneer.

In addition, a dormer would be constructed on the rear roof of the original structure. Skylights would be added on the right and left sides of the roof to bring light into the attic level. The existing chimneys would be removed. The asbestos siding would be removed from the structure and would be replaced with wood clapboards. The existing wood casings would be retained and repaired as necessary. Wood corner boards would be added. Paneling would be installed beneath the bay windows. Two windows would be added to the existing second-story rear addition that would overlook the balcony. A door leading to a new deck would be installed in the existing rear-most, single-story portion of the structure. This part of the building would be clad with cedar shingles.

Attorney Mead said the proposed addition would be minimally visible from the street. Marc Cendron said the proposal is reasonable. He said he would support it reluctantly because he would prefer for the chimneys to be retained. He said he objects to the dormer, but it would not be visible from the street.

Glenn Richards said the proposed dormer is compliant with the guidelines. Joe Morgan said that while chimneys are very important, he does not feel strongly that they should be retained in this case.

Biff Bouse said he also does not like the dormer, but it would be acceptable because it would not be visible from the street. He said he likes the cedar shingles on the end-most addition.

Glenn Richards said the overall impact of the proposal would be positive, but he is not in favor of the removal of the chimneys. Attorney Mead said there was a fire in the left chimney. The right chimney is newer and has not been properly repaired.

Biff Bouse moved that the structure is preferably preserved. Joe Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

Joe Morgan moved to accept the plans as presented and lift the Demolition Delay. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

4. Updates from the Chair

Glenn Richards noted that prospective member Chris Sawtelle was in attendance.

5. Minutes

Biff Bouse moved to approve the minutes of the December 8 meeting. Marc Cendron seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote (Glenn Richards, yes; Biff Bouse, yes; Joe Morgan, yes; Marc Cendron, yes).

6. Adjournment

Marc Cendron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Biff Bouse seconded the motion. The motion was approved.