

Newburyport Historical Commission
Mayor's Conference Room
August 23, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Sarah White called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Sarah White, Malcolm Carnwath, Mark Bilodeau and Stephen Dodge. Ned McGrath was absent.

3. Advisory Review

Michael Cyros

6 Purchase Street

DOCD Advisory Review

A determination from May 10, 2017 included a condition that nine windows dating from the late 1800s shall be restored instead of replaced. At the August 9, 2017 meeting, the Commission members agreed the condition of the windows too poor for them to be restored they should instead be replaced. A condition was made that the sashes shall be given to an entity such as the Window Woman of New England or the Preservation Trust for some manner of reuse. The Commission requested the applicant provide a sample of the windows to be used. John Kelleher represented applicant and provided a sample of a Jeld-Wen simulated divided light with a spacer bar between the panes of glass. Six-over-six windows will be used, although a sample window of this style was not available.

Mr. Kelleher said it was found that the location of an upright beam would make it physically impossible to install a window above the main doorway, as had been previously proposed. A small, offset window currently exists in this location. The Commission members recommend a blind window be installed for the sake of symmetry.

Sarah White moved to accept the proposal for eight six-over-six replacement windows with the conditions the historic windows shall be donated for reuse and a blind window shall be installed in the center of the second story, above the main doorway of the original house. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. General Business

79 Parker Street

Informal Discussion

The Commission had previously determined the house and barn were historically significant and the demolition application had been subsequently withdrawn. The new owner of the property presented plans to significantly change the house and convert it to office space. A two-story addition would be constructed in the location of the existing three-car garage on an expanded footprint. A two-story wrap-around porch would be added, along with an expanded portico.

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Reaction to the proposed design was mixed. Sarah White liked that the addition has been differentiated from the historic house. Malcolm Carnwath and Mark Bilodeau would prefer a more traditional form for the addition. Stephen Dodge said he does not believe the existing house is of value and he is in favor of the proposal.

The Commission members will visit the site on Saturday, August 26 at 2:30 p.m. They offered the following recommendations:

- The appearance of a traditional historic-looking farmhouse should be retained.
- The portico should not appear to be too grand.
- While the addition of a farmer's porch would be appropriate for the first floor, it should not have a second story.
- Three or four small individual dormers should be used on the front of the original structure rather than a shed dormer.
- The roofline of the addition should be of the same shape and pitch as that of the original structure.
- The type of windows used in the addition should be consistent with those of the original structure.
- The pattern of the siding on the rebuilt barn should be vertical rather than horizontal.

5. Minutes

Stephen Dodge moved to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting as submitted. Malcolm Carnwath seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mark Bilodeau abstaining.

6. Adjournment

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.