

**Newburyport Historical Commission**  
City Council Chambers  
October 25, 2017  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Ned McGrath called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Historical Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**3. General Business**

**Berkeley Investments, Inc.**

1690 House, 262 Merrimac Street  
Restoration Plan

As mitigation for the failure of the applicant to adhere to condition #11 of a 2015 special permit, the Planning Board is requiring that interpretive signage on the significance of the Samuel Morse House and its interior elements be installed and a perpetual preservation restriction be placed on the historically significant features of Towle Manufacturing building. The Planning Board asked to receive input before its November 1 meeting from the NHC on the progress that has been made on the signage. Stephanie Niketic and Tom Kolterjahn of the Preservation Trust are assisting with the review of the interpretive panels. They intend to meet with Eric Ekman and members of the Planning Office. They wish former workers of the Towle Manufacturing Company to fact-check the proposed text. They said the captions for the photographs of the interior must indicate that certain historic features were removed in 2016. They asked that the text stress the social importance of the 1690 House. The Towle Manufacturing Company and the 1690 House are important to the residents of the City who remember their piece in the fabric of the community. The preservation restriction on the Towle Manufacturing building is of more importance to the Preservation Trust than the interpretive panels. Attorney Lisa Mead said she is making progress with the preservation restriction.

The Commission will communicate to the Planning Board that the draft interpretive signage has been reviewed, feedback from the members of Preservation Trust has been received and an agreement has been reached between the applicant, the Preservation Trust and NHC that the Trust will conduct research on the text and the panels will be presented for approval at the November 8 NHC meeting.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission provided comments on the restoration plan. The plan is acceptable except with regards to the dimensions of the entablature above the windows. Linda Miller reviewed the plans and commented that the entablature should be beveled at the top rather than being flat, as is depicted in the plans. The applicant will make the recommended changes.

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**Michael Graf**  
8 Harrison Street  
Demolition Delay

Dianne Boisvert of the Planning Office informed the property owners that a one-year demolition delay had been previously been imposed on the structure and they would not need Commission approval for their demolition plans. The structure, however, may be subject to the DCOD. Further input from the Planning Office is necessary.

The Commission members offered suggestions on the way in which the proposed changes to the structure might be improved. The houses on the street are traditional in style. The plans should allow the structure to fit with the context of the neighborhood; it should contribute to the streetscape. The contemporary addition on the third floor would prevent this, especially with the proposed single-pane windows. Six-over-six windows would be appropriate for the age of the house.

**4. Minutes**

Malcolm Carnwath moved to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting as submitted. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**5. Adjournment**

Malcolm Carnwath moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Stephen Dodge seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.