

NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Regular meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission began at 7:12 p.m.

Members present: Channing Howard, Lon Hachmeister, Eva Jackman, Rebecca Fuller, and Richard Morin

Members absent: Jan Forrest

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the **August 19, 2021** meeting were reviewed. One addition was noted and approved. Motions were made to accept the minutes as revised. Minutes were unanimously approved by quorum of membership.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Correspondence: Communication from Pink House Group thanking NHC for letter of support, Communication from Hay Stack Group Meeting (Eva agreed to attend their meeting)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Prepared by Lon H. A motion was made to accept, seconded, and carried with unanimous vote. (Lon noted that we had received \$120 in donations so far this summer)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Names were presented for consideration by the NHC membership for FY2022 - FY2023 Officers and approved by the membership as follows: Channing Howard – Chairperson; Rebecca Fuller – Asst. Chairperson; Jan Forrest – Clerk; and Lon Hachmeister – Treasurer.

WEBSITE REPORT:

1. 1635 website: Rebecca has conducted a detailed review of the current website and software and suggests that we totally scrap the website as is, select new management software, and start over.
2. Following Lon's suggestion last month for everyone to download the NHC info and any historical documents/pictures onto a CD or a USB device and upload it onto the cloud after the data is formatted for storage, Rebecca is requesting that all members of the NHC collect and send her all available digital photographs that they have and provided flash drives to each of us to put the digital files on.
3. Lon offered to send Dole House and Homestead data and photographs to Rebecca; Eva did not discuss checking with the previous owners of the Atkinson House about putting them on the 1635 website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS UPDATES

1. Reminder of the Newbury Archives Meeting, Tuesday, October 5th at 5:30 pm at the town library, as posted on the Library Trustee Meeting site by Jean Ackerly, Director.
2. Sales and Trails being held this weekend; Eva to check out how we might support.
3. Reminder -The Massachusetts Historical Survey: What do you want to learn about historic preservation? To help Jennifer Doherty prepare for her schedule of workshops. Everyone on the NHC should fill it out. (Note survey closed 24 August 2021).

4. Note that the new sign at the “falls” is installed and looks great. Everyone is invited to go look at it.
5. Update – New Town Hall. No one has heard of any new information on what is going to be done there.

NEW BUSINESS: Lon H. attended a Lower Green Local Historic District citizens meeting and has prepared a summary of the meeting discussions (see below).

LOWER GREEN LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT REPORT:

1. Residents living near and abutting the Newbury Lower Green held a meeting on 22 September at 6:00pm at the home of one of the residents to discuss forming a Lower Green Local Historic District.
2. In attendance: approximately 11 members of 6 residences bordering the Lower Green; Select Board members Alicia Greco and J.R. Colby; NHC member and Lower Green resident Lon Hachmeister.
3. Following roundtable introductions, the group discussed their concerns about the lack of protection of the historic Lower Green, the old schoolhouse, and the Lower Green view-scape. Discussions went immediately to creating a Local Historic District that would include the Lower Green and old schoolhouse and buildings and lands immediately adjacent to the Lower Green and within the view of the Lower Green. Lon H. handed out a 10 Steps to Creating a LHD (attached).
4. In further discussions on what to include in the Local Historic District, everyone agreed that only lands and building whose owners wished to be included in the LHD would be considered. The rational was to keep the formation of a LHD friendly and more easily approved by the citizenry at the Annual Town Hall meeting where a 2/3 majority would eventually be needed to implement the LHD as a Bylaw. Discussion included contacting Essex County Greenbelt about inclusion of their property in the LHD.
5. Citizens Committee members also discussed the idea of getting the Lower Green listed on the National Register while in the process of creating a Lower Green LHD.
6. Final discussions suggested that the LHD be called the Newbury Lower Green Local Historic District and be created to protect and include the Lower Green property, the old schoolhouse, and only willing property owners surrounding the Lower Green. In this way, formation of the LHD would only protect the Lower Green area and not infringe on the property rights of anyone who did not want to be included in the process, thereby increasing the likelihood of eventually being approved in a Town Meeting.
7. Selectpersons Greco and Colby suggested that the Citizens Lower Green LHD Committee write letters to each member of the Select Board requesting their help and approval of the endeavor and requesting that they be put on an upcoming Select Board Meeting to present their request for the formation of a Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) to study the Lower Green LHD proposal, summarize their findings and recommendations, conduct a public hearing, and prepare a LHD Preliminary Report.
8. Selectpersons Greco and Colby offered to inform Town Administrator Tracy Blais of the group’s intentions.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Historical Commission should be on Thursday, **October 5, 2021.**

This meeting was adjourned at **about 7:45 p.m.**

Lon Hachmeister

Date of approval