

NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013

Call to Order

A regular monthly meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission was held at the Newbury Town Library on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:36 PM.

Members present: Chris Drelich, Channing Howard, Marcia Peirce, Barbara Rogers, Nancy Thurlow, and Bill Towne. *Member absent:* Sue Nagle.

Also in attendance were Caleb Noble, Executive Director of Media for the town; and Martha Taylor, Town Planner.

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the 5/8/13 meeting were presented and approved on a MOTION made by Nancy Thurlow. Marcia Peirce and Bill Towne abstained, as they were not present at the 5/8/13 meeting. All other members present voted in favor. *The motion carried.*

Reports

1. Treasurer's Report

As of June 12, 2013	General Fund	\$19.85
	Gift Fund	\$7,239.28

Old Business

1. Shrubs next to First Settlers' Monument

Channing contacted Peter Hollis, Tree Warden, about the potential removal and replacement of the shrubs next to the First Settlers' Monument. Peter was fine with the idea and sent Channing to Tim Leonard, Director of the DPW, who has graciously offered to remove the old shrubs and purchase new Alberta Spruce trees (3'-4' tall) for the site. The Historical Commission would only be responsible for planting the new trees and keeping them watered.

Nancy Thurlow mentioned that the middle school-aged children that live across the street might be willing to water them, as they have shown a strong interest in the Lower Green Schoolhouse and visit often during open houses. We will proceed with plans at the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1.

2. Schoolhouse Shutters and Stairs

Channing has inspected the shutters which are still off the building and found them to be structurally sound. They are simply in need of a good scraping and painting. He suggested that the HC could do the work ourselves.

The right-side staircase, which currently tilts away from the building, was inspected by Channing and also found to be structurally sound. The blocks that the stairs were built upon have sunk into the ground. He will take care of leveling the staircase as soon as he is able.

3. Trails & Sails 2013

We reiterated that we would like to have the Schoolhouse open during Essex National Heritage's *Trails and Sails* weekends, but that we would not have visitors walking to the other

locations as they did last year. Chris Drelich will be taking over temporarily as the program coordinator for this year's event, as Barbara Rogers is not seeking reappointment on the HC. (See New Business #3 for further information).

4. **Draft Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw**

As a point of clarity, it is recorded that Barbara Rogers excused herself from the meeting prior to our taking up work on the Draft Proposed DDB and Marcia Peirce had to leave prior to the motion and vote outlined below due to the lateness of the hour.

Time was spent reviewing "Version 2" of the Draft Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw and fixing minor grammatical and continuity issues.

MOTION Upon a final read-through of the entire Draft Proposed DDB Version 2, a motion was made by Bill Towne to approve this document (with the appropriate grammatical and continuity issues corrected) as the Historical Commission's "*Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw Version 1.*"

The motion carried with votes in favor by all members present at this point in the meeting: Bill Towne, Channing Howard, Chris Drelich, and Nancy Thurlow.

Chris Drelich will reformat the document, making the appropriate grammatical and continuity changes, and send the updated version to the members of the HC via e-mail for further review and comment for the next meeting. At our next meeting we will also discuss the procedure for vetting the Proposed DDB with town officials.

New Business

1. **Newbury's Cable Station**

Executive Director of Media Caleb Noble made a presentation about Newbury's cable TV station and some of the current programming along with proposed ideas about future programming. He would very much like to present 30-minute historical feature segments on various aspects of the town's history and invited us to contact him with ideas. Caleb can be reached at newburytv@gmail.com or via his cell phone: 978-500-5388.

In the short term, the HC would like to run an announcement that the Lower Green Schoolhouse is open for the season. Chris Drelich will fill out the appropriate forms to get the listing on the station.

2. **Woodbridge School Preservation Restrictions**

When the town voted to sell the Woodbridge School, it did so with preservation restrictions. The Purchase & Sale Agreement has been finalized between the Town of Newbury and Federal Street Restorations LLC and the time has come for the Historical Commission to approve the preservation restrictions.

Town Planner Martha Taylor was present at the meeting to give an overview of the procedure and to solicit two votes from the HC: the first to approve the terms of the Preservation Restriction, and the second to accept the Preservation Restriction, to be held in escrow pending execution by the buyers.

Members of the HC had not been provided any documentation prior to the meeting, and were given a one-page summary of the Preservation Restrictions during Martha Taylor's presentation. Great concern was expressed that there had been no time to review the official documents and it would be imprudent for the Historical Commission to vote on the Preservation Restrictions without even seeing the restrictions spelled out in full.

MOTION A motion was made by Bill Towne to table the discussion on the Preservation Restriction until members of the HC have had a chance to review the full documentation prepared by Town Counsel. A special meeting of the Historical Commission was proposed for Monday, June 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., at Newbury Town Hall to discuss the Preservation Restrictions and vote accordingly.
The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Channing Howard will send the full documentation via e-mail for the HC's review prior to Monday's meeting.

3. **Membership and Term Endings**

Barbara Rogers' term ends at the end of the month and she expressed that she will not be seeking reappointment on the Historical Commission. We appreciate Barb's work on the HC, her extensive knowledge of town history, and her dedication to the group since it was first reestablished in November of 2011. She has been instrumental in many special projects, including Trails & Sails, and her presence will be missed. We wish her the very best.

Marcia Peirce's term also ends at the end of the month and she expressed concern that her availability on weekends and for evening meetings is limited. She wouldn't mind serving another term on the Commission, but said that if a new member was identified that was able to contribute more, she would be willing to step down.

Channing will work with the Board of Selectmen to identify and potentially interview interested persons, if there are indeed people who have expressed an interest in serving on the Commission.

Adjournment

Upcoming meetings of the Historical Commission will be as follows:

- a. Special Meeting of the HC to discuss and vote on Woodbridge School Preservation Restrictions is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013 at Newbury Town Hall, 6:30 PM.
- b. The next regular meeting of the HC has been **moved** from the 2nd to the 3rd week of July, since Channing is unavailable on July 10 and we will not have a Vice Chair in place to run the meeting in Channing's absence. The meeting is now scheduled for **Wednesday, July 17, 2013** at the Newbury Town Library, 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.



Christopher Drelich,
Clerk/Treasurer

7/17/13

Date of approval