

NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 09, 2023

Regular meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission began at **7:02** p.m.

Members present: Channing Howard, Jan Forrest, Lon Hachmeister, Rebecca Fuller and Rich Morin

Members absent: Eva Jackman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the February 09, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes as written and approved by all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No changes from the prior month.

WEBSITE REPORT:

1. Rebecca continues to work on the website, things are going well. She spoke with Matt (IT) about future changes that would be made.
2. We are hoping to add more information to the website. Jan gave her a photo of the Oliver Goodrich house to add. Brief discussion of George Washington visiting Newbury (Byfield). Goodrich was on his staff.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from: Rich Morin re: windows in Schoolhouse & photos of 15 Coleman Rd.; Devlin Contracting re: solar installation on barn at 15 Coleman Rd.; John Cutting re: 1635 website and the Schoolhouse; Lon sent an email regarding the FY2024 budget; David Packard, Bayside Engineering re: Central St. Bridge project; Shingle info on Dole-Little house from Madison Vlass; Town Planner re: 15 Coleman Rd.; Dana Packer, Select Board, Re: 25 High Rd. NHRD

Mail Received: none

E-mail sent to: 1) David Packard, Bayside Engineering on Central St. Bridge project: request for information be sent to HC chair.

NOTES ON CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Devlin Contracting re: solar installation on barn at 15 Coleman Rd.; Need plan information from the contractor. Jan re-sent to everyone the MHC memo on solar installation on historic areas. Channing talked about Ipswich not allowing changes that you can see from the street. Post development, question is if we can only issue an opinion. We need more information on the plan for the installation and to also contact Martha to see if there are restrictions on the older structures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS UPDATES

1. Schoolhouse roof: Channing gave information about his search for all roofing alternatives. He mentioned contacting several companies for quotes, etc. He will create a list and give the information to Town Hall for follow up and bidding, etc. Details were given of different types of synthetic roof material.
2. Channing checked the roof inside the Schoolhouse and agreed that water had permeated part of the roof in the past. He also stated he would remove the broken window and repair it in the spring. The old window found in the attic will be for a backup, if needed.
3. Problems with the Omni Alarm. Channing discussed with Town Administrator via email. She will have DPW contact Channing to discuss and contact the alarm company. Lon stated he would like to have motion detectors inside. Anyone breaking a window may not trigger the regular alarm. sensors inside the Schoolhouse should.

4. Trees on Lower Green: Channing noticed a tree on the west side of the school has ribbon and a sign, but the rain has run the ink and the information is unreadable. Channing asked Jan to send a memo to the DPW Director and also Tree Warden (for suitable replacement).
5. Lon will purchase a new Newbury flag and a U.S. Flag – OK given by the HC
6. Lon has the original book of the work done on the Schoolhouse for the Bi-Centennial. Lon will get the book scanned and a copy made. This will give us materials info to repair and repaint the interior of the building.
7. Jan will contact the DPW to see if the Schoolhouse can be power washed somehow.
8. 15 Coleman Rd. - Jan sent an email to the solar installer and asked for plans to show the details of work planned. No response was received and not permit has been pulled on Permit Link. A discussion of the house and the current updates that Rich noticed when he took photos of the barn. Jan already spoke contact Bld. Inspector's admin and asked she notify the HC if any permits are being pulled. There is a restrictive covenant on the main house, and the 2 out buildings. There is also a map showing these 3 structures a "being old" and must be protected, (also see **Discussion** below).
9. Jan handed out a list (from the Assessor's website) of all houses with dates from 1600's to 1800's. She explained that she was given information that the Assessor's office should be able to flag these structures. The Building office's assistant was going to inquire at Permit Link to see if she is able to flag properties to assist with tagging them for permits being sought.
10. Rich is still working with experts on Indigenous population. Lon said he information to send to Rich. A brief discussion of the history of the area took place. Channing felt the information should be added to the Newbury Reconnaissance report (2005).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Central Bridge project – Channing spoke with the company. He requested they fill out our "Business before the Board" form. They did and attached it to an email. Channing gave a brief review of the plans. This is only in its initial stage and may not be anything the HC will have to deal with. The current upper roadway section of the old bridge will be removed and replaced. This should not be an issue with the HC, as the upper roadway section itself is not historic.
2. Open Meeting Law receipts were handed out and filled in by all members present. Jan will give the signed copies to the Town Clerk.
3. Rich relayed that he is now on the 2023 committee for Town Day (08/26/2023).

DISCUSSION

1. Rebecca spoke to Jack Rybicki about the great photos and maps he has putting up on Facebook. He was happy to share and he requested that his contributions be credited to him. She is trying to decide the best way to display this and Channing responded that it is at her discretion.
2. We had a discussion regarding how much can be done to preserve structures re: solar, view from the street, etc. A discussion ensued regarding this and future responses and a question was raised about setting up a policy. (Jan handed out information from other sources regarding putting solar panels on the roofs of historic properties.) Lon suggested we prepare a statement to be used by the NHC in cases where things of this nature come up. Channing suggested we look at the Town of Ipswich information, as they have been involved with LHD's for some time and can be used to guide our HC and perhaps the LHDSC for the Lower Green.
3. The discussion on the Central St. Bridge (see above) caused Jan to ask if the "form" we created for information should be revised. Channing reiterated the form should give us the initial information. We can then use this information to request for details, plans, etc. via a letter (email) from the requestors to gather more information.
4. Jan gave Rebecca info on Sterling Burgess and flight at the airport on an email sent by Kathleen Murray.

DDB DISCUSSION

1. Town Hall – 25 High Rd. The destruction of the existing building will trigger the DDB. Jan stressed the need to make the waiting time longer. Jan asked for info from MassHistPress (List Serve) regarding DDB and Town owned building. No one replied that the Town is exempt, so they will need to comply with the By-law. Further questions on if the Town needs to get a demo permit; building permit, etc. It appears they have to follow the same rules, as many are State mandated.
2. Jan brought up there are 2 local books on Newbury the history of the Town Hall/Grange Hall, etc. and they, plus other info on the WWW are all full of conflicting information. A brief discussion ensued. Question was asked by the Chair – have we received no communication from the Municipal Building Committee regard the building. Channing reminded us, the HC has “No Comment” unless officially requested from Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Historical Commission should be on Thursday, **April 13, 2023**.

This meeting was adjourned at **8:35 p.m.**

Janice Forrest 04/13/2023

Janice Forrest

Date of approval: