

NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

Regular meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission began at **7:11** p.m.

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

Members absent: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the March 09, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the meeting minutes with one correction and approved by all.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No changes from the prior month. Lon ordered portable toilet for upcoming season from same company as last year. There was only a minor increase. New flags are needed: Town flag and U.S. Flag – ok to get them. See info on Schoolhouse restoration book in **Unfinished Business** below.

WEBSITE REPORT: Rebecca continues to work on the website, hoping to launch by this summer. She needs the final rendition of the map on the visitor's guide to put on the website from Lon. She mentioned she will need us to proof sections to check for accuracy.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Email from: Kevin Neville solar 15 Coleman Rd.; Catherine Yesair Gould; James, DPW Director, Tim, Tree Warden; Jennifer Reed – info on Noyes House, 7 Parker St.; 6 Olga Way Demo; Robin LGLHDSC re: use of Schoolhouse. DCR – (per my request) sent a list of properties with Conservation Restrictions.

Mail Received: Stewardship deed for 15 Coleman Rd from Planning for signatures.

E-mail sent to: a) Tree Warden on tree to be removed and replaced near the Schoolhouse; DPW on grading the road. Replies were received by both and Jan followed up with Thank You notes to both parties.

(b) Solar – Jan printed info on restrictions to Inspectional Services to put flag on Permit Link for 15 Coleman Rd.

NOTES ON CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Devlin Contracting re: solar installation on barn at 15 Coleman Rd.; still need plan information from the contractor.
2. Chrissy (Bldg. inspection admin) placed a hold on work being done, Jan explained the repairs were OK to proceed and there will only be a question on Solar panels. Jan also thanked her for checking the list and tagging it.
3. Jan will reply to Robin regarding the use of the Schoolhouse in June. She and Lon will be there.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS UPDATES

1. Coleman Rd, Father "Witch's" stone – signing of documents, while filming, for legal documentation. A motion was made by Jan, 2nd by Rich and all in agreement. Each person on the Historical Commission signed the documents, approving our stewardship of the area around the Stone. Jan will officially sign at the Town Clerk's office and hand off to Planning when completed.

2. Schoolhouse roof: Channing will create a list and hopefully have samples to give to Town Hall for follow up and bidding, etc. with DPW Director, James. Details were given of different types of synthetic roof material. Going through all the choice will be done as soon as he can get through the list. They will have the appearance of Mill cut shingles.
3. Alarm system – James Sarette contacted the alarm company to have them go to the Schoolhouse to review the system and update us when done.
4. Trees on Lower Green: Tree to be planted where old one was removed near Schoolhouse.
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 several copies made; approved at April meeting (NTE \$500.00). Cost is higher due to these facts: all sheets are in plastic sleeves and are both horizontal and vertical. Motion was made by Channing, 2nd by Rich, all in favor for Lon to use his discretion on costs. The scan can also be put on 1635 website. 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. Response was received and no permit has been pulled on Permit Link. 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 as "being old" and must be protected, (also see **Discussion** below).
9. Rich is still working with experts on Indigenous population. He spoke about information he is working on regarding the falls and the surrounding area. Also, he gave some information about the weirs in the river. A brief discussion ensued regarding Longfellow farm and the original apple trees. Lon has a book he will give to Rich.
10. Central St. Bridge no new information.
11. Pink House land exchange deal fell through and they must not find a new property and go through Zoning again, as the time limit has expired.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DCR

DISCUSSION

1. 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. She will continue to ask for information from neighboring communities. 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.
2. Discussion of the Schoolhouse restoration book/binder shifted into the Town Clerk's restoration/preservation of Town documents – the annual budget for this work would not be used for this book.
3. Channing attended a meeting with Town Counsel and Dept./Commission heads, aka Town Public Body, at Town Hall regarding recent changes on a SJC court case involving "opening meeting law" between the SJC, ACLU and the AG public comment and public hearings and the public's right to speak. Public meetings held: rules on protocol: public must step up to the front of the room, state their name and address, etc. They must stay on subject, time allotment must be given equally to each person wishes to address the board/committee. The HC will have to adopt a guideline for public hearings. The only time the HC would be probably encounter this would be in regards to Public Meetings for the DDB. Lon asked if we should be adding this to the DDB. Any changes to the DDB would have to put before a Town Meeting. There is a difference between public meetings and public hearings. Town Meeting is exempt.

DDB DISCUSSION

1. 6 Olga Way, Plum Island demolition of 1930's house. We received info on Permit Link to approve or disapprove the demo. Jan took photo of the building. The HC has no issue with the demo taking place.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Historical Commission should be on Thursday, **May 11, 2023**.

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

Janice M. Forrest 05/11/2023

Janice Forrest Date of approval: