

Meeting Minutes – Norfolk Historical Commission
October 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Betsy Pyne. Also in attendance were Barbara Bartholomew, Betsey Whitney, Gail Sullivan, Marcia Johnston, Thelma Ravinski, and Geri Tasker. Guests included building developers Al Quaglieri and Bob Vey as well as Sam Obar and Christina Cochrane from the Walpole Historical Commission.

Agenda Items:

#1. Treasurer's Report: Marcia Johnston reported balances of \$250.00 in the Regular Fund and \$5480.75 in the Gift Fund as of 8/23/16. She will transfer the funding information to Sandra Paquette, who is taking on the position of NHC Treasurer.

#1. Minutes: Geri read the September minutes; there were two changes made related to the Warelands. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the noted changes. The motion passed to accept the minutes.

#2. Demo Delay: The application to demolish 29 Valley in Pondville (the old postoffice) on 2.5 acres was filed by Al Quaglieri, who will own it officially on Thursday 10/20/16. He and his partner, Bob Vey want to build two duplexes on the site similar to the ones on Valley Street. Our concern is that this is an historic building originally built by Virgil Pond; it was a store run by Helen Robbins and also a post office from 1890 – 1910. Virginia Sterns, Helen's daughter, is the current owner, and no one has been living there for more than 20 years; Betsey Whitney has mowed the lawn. There are two Glenwood Stoves; the big one is valuable and there are two smaller ones, one located upstairs and the other in the basement. Al plans on moving the big one and using it in his barn. Al has a letter from the fire department stating that there is electricity. The electricity is dangerous; there is no plumbing and lots of stuff (junk) on floor. NHC would like access to the building to take pictures and go over the floor with a metal detector, but Al is concerned about liability as it's dangerous inside; flooring is unstable. The Fire Chief won't let firefighters inside if there's a fire. The dirt floor is an archaeologist's dream, and there's a metal cage that was used for mail when it was a post office. Al will allow NHC go over the dirt floor with a metal detector and to take photographs. Betsy Pyne will take pictures of the stoves in their original setting on Monday 10/31/2016 at 10 am. Betsey Whitney would like to be notified if there are stray cats on the property; she works with an animal shelter in Plainville, and they can trap the cats to save them. Barbara made a motion to invoke a 30 day demolition delay of 29 Valley Street, but as soon as pictures of the stoves and the site are taken and metal detecting in dirt floor is completed, we'll notify the building inspector that the delay has been released. The motion was seconded by Marcia Johnston; there was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. In addition, Al would like to install a picture or pictures of the building with a notation about the historic nature of the site. He is willing to make a donation to NHC so that we can have an historical marker made to be located on the site of the original building. We are hoping that Tri County can make a 2x2 fiberglass panel similar to the larger ones installed around town. Betsy P will email Bob Bullock to let him know about the month delay on 29 Valley St.

Demo Delay (cont.): Betsy P. explained the process of how our Demolition Delay Law works to our guests from the Walpole Historical Commission, Sam and Christina. They also have a sixth month demolition delay, but if they determine a property is historic or architecturally significant, they are required to have a public hearing before deciding to invoke the delay or allow the demolition. They are collecting information about how other towns handle their demolition delay process. Kathleen Broomer also did their town survey.

#3. 150th Anniversary Sweatshirts: Betsy P. suggested putting the Tramp House on the sweatshirts instead of the Warelands because the Tramp House is a public property and is located on the Walking Tour. The Tramp House could be written within the circle of the picture on the bottom. "Happy Anniversary" will be printed around the top outside of the circle and "Norfolk" printed around the bottom outside of the circle. This change will be discussed again and voted on at our next meeting when Sandra is present.

#4. Next meeting: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7 p.m.

#5. Web Site: Barbara has been updating the information on our website relating to historic sites; Betsy P. has also been working to update it.

#6. The Warelands: Betsy P. met with Michael Musto, the Warelands realtor, to tour the property. She wanted to see how the building could be renovated in line with the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines. When this property sells, NHC will contact Jeff Gonyeau of Preservation MA to come out and tour the house after it changes ownership. Jeff can be reached at 617-320-2323.

#7 Pipeline: Betsey Whitney has invited the pipeline people to come to Norfolk to speak with us about the impact the pipeline would have on our town. Spectre hired The Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) to seek comments from NHC regarding the affect that the pipeline project may have on any historic properties in the town of Norfolk. Betsey W called PAL and was told that Greg Dubell would come to our meeting. They do assessments, identify historical sites and are impartial; currently there is a setback or standstill in MA because of funding so the Spectre project is at a standstill. When the setback is abated, Greg will come to speak with us. NHC concerns include the fact that the Warelands has an easement along the pipeline route which also runs along Highland Lake and the burial ground at the Prison. These are all Mass Historical Commission issues.

#8 Bartholomew Report: (see attached sheet for complete details)

- Lions Club to lay wood chips at Fales Park
- Rearrangement of the History Room
- Editing and Reprinting of *Norfolk Revisited* (Charles Pyne offered to scan any pictures from the original book that we need.)
- Next steps for the Anniversary Book
- Wrentham scrapbook project with Greg Stahl

#9. Invitations:

History Wall: NHC has been invited to the unveiling of the History Wall created by Girl Scout Troop 3616 on Thursday, November 3 at 9:30 a.m. Members who will attend include Betsy Pyne, Thelma Ravinski, Marcia Johnston, Betsey Whitney, and Gail Sullivan. Geri will respond to Eleanor Spellman with the names of attendees.

The Angle Tree Stone: NHC is invited to a ceremony on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 1 p.m. Betsy Pyne and Betsey Whitney are planning to attend. Betsy P. will RSVP.

A motion to adjourn at 8:53 was made, seconded, and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Geraldine A. Tasker

Secretary