

Norfolk Historical Commission - March 21, 2017
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Betsy Pyne at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Barbara Bartholomew, Betsey Whitney, Gail Sullivan, Sandra Paquette and Geri Tasker. A guest, Donald Gillis, was also present.

Minutes: Geri read the minutes from the February 21st meeting. A motion was made, seconded and the minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Sandra will get the exact figures for the next meeting; she is still in the transition process as the new Treasurer. However there is a financial report below relating to the sale of books and sweatshirts.

Agenda Items:

Demolition Delay - 198 North Street: Donald Gillis distributed copies of his demolition application as well as detailed plans for the new home to be built on the existing site, the new dwelling will have 4 bedrooms and 3½ baths. The existing home is a small ranch built in 1940; members determined that the home is not historically significant. Betsy Pyne made a motion to allow the demolition as soon as the building inspector issues the permit. Sandra seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Betsy will notify the building inspector.

Demolition Delay - 33 Mirror Lake Ave: The demolition applicant, Larry Foran, was not present at the meeting. This property, right on water, was built in 1936 as a summer cottage, which was later converted into year round house. There was no building code when this home was originally constructed and converted. Sandra checked it out online and reported that the home looks shabby and in disrepair. Mr. Foran wants to build a small cape style house on this small lot. Members determined that this property is not historically significant. Geri made a motion to approve the demolition; Sandra seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Betsy will notify the building inspector. There was some discussion about the fact that eventually we'll have no more summer cottages on Mirror Lake, but if they are all out of code because of when they were built, it would be very costly to bring them up to date.

Sweatshirt and Book Sale: The two day sale of books and sweatshirts at the Norfolk Public Library on Feb 23rd & 25th was a success. Betsy P. gave Sandra \$175.00 from the sale of books: *Early Norfolk Revisited*, 2nd edition and *Norfolk Stories, Vol. II*. We made \$280.00 on Sweatshirts, and several orders were also taken. Over the two day sale we sold a total of \$940.00 of books for a combined total of \$1200.00. We still need to pay for the additional sweatshirts ordered. Sandra will give a final tally when this is taken care of. We discussed selling books and sweatshirts on a regular basis and maybe making up a basket to raffle off. Both the sweatshirts and books were well received by the public.

Bertha Fales History: Geri reported that we'll no doubt need new printing estimates from the publisher as the original figures are based on approximately 110 pages. She is currently on page 58 of the typed version but on page 95 of the computer manuscript. Based on those figures, we'll definitely exceed the

110 page limit. We discussed moving a passage about the beginning of schools to the section on schools because this passage comes in the midst of the section about the French and Indian War and seems out of place. Geri will check the file containing Bertha's original handwritten notebooks to see if this was a misprint in the first typing. If so, she will move it; if not, it will remain where it is. A suggestion was made to include an appendix to explain 2017 updates, but our intent is to simply reproduce the history as it was originally written by Bertha; much of it was based on oral history and her recollections. Editing spelling and punctuation errors are fine, but other than that we do not want to take away from the original work.

Sixth Grade Essay Contest: Geri distributed copies of the proposed Essay Contest, and awards were discussed. Sandra made motion to award \$250.00 as the first prize and \$100.00 as the second prize plus framed award certificates. Betsy P. seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Geri will call the Freeman-Kennedy School to speak with the principal about setting this contest in motion. Betsy found articles on the early history of Norfolk and put them in a folder for use in researching the essay.

2016 Town Report: Geri distributed copies of the annual report for 2016 and thanked everyone for their input; the report was reviewed. Geri will edit minor changes and submit the final report to Marion Harrington this week.

Demo Delay Law Workshop: Betsy P., Geri T. and Gail S. attended a workshop held in Walpole last week. The official title of the lecture was *The Demolition Delay Law and its Implementation by Local Commissions* and was presented by Chris Schelly of the Mass. Historical Commission. He sent a copy of his presentation to all of the participants, and Betsy will email the file to NHC members who were unable to attend the session. The review of buildings to determine significance before a meeting was discussed. Mr. Schelly said that the chairman can determine if a site is historically significant. He also recommended that we change our law to contain an actual Public Hearing instead of an open meeting.

150th Book Update: Barbara showed us pages she put together of old photos with captions she has written; the illustrations depict a very rural Norfolk from an earlier time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2017.

A motion to adjourn at was made; seconded and passed. The meeting came to an end at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Geraldine A. Tasker
Recording Secretary