

Norfolk Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Betsy Pyne at 7 p.m. NHC members present included Marcian Johnston, Gail Sullivan, Geri Tasker, Betsey Whitney, and Sandra Paquette

Guest: Nina O'Brien

The minutes from the September meeting were discussed and approved.

Financial Report: The General Fund totals \$250.00. The Gift Fund has a balance of \$4879.29 which includes the purchase and sale of sweat shirts. Sandra stated that Todd Lindmark (Head Financial Person) will email Sandra our monthly statements for her report.

Agenda Items:

Demolition Application: Nina O'Brien of 36 Boardman Street lives near 43 Rockwood Road and is concerned about the proposed demolition and what may be built in its place. The owner of 43 Rockwood, Jim Lorusso (lorossu.james@yahoo.com), lives in Wrentham and his agent Steve Dowling have applied for a demolish permit. The house on the corner which has been empty since about the 1970s is slated to come down and not the Real Estate building facing Rockwood Road. Betsy explained the demolition application process to Nina as well as our authority to delay a demo for 6months. We are not aware of the owner's future building plans on the site. Betsy P recommended that Nina contact the assessor's office to inquire about size of property. Betsy P will ask Bob Bullock to verify that it's only the home and not the Real Estate business that will be demolished. Betsy P recommended that we allow the demolition of the home, but not the RE building; all members agreed.

Minutes: Regarding distribution of future minutes, in order to save time during the meeting, Geri would like to make copies of the minutes to be approved and leave them on the table for members to read upon arrival before the meeting gets underway. Since NHC's role has expanded over the last few years, our meetings have become more complex and so has recording the minutes. Instead of one page, there's often multiple pages. As a result of this, reading the minutes during the meeting has been taking time that can be devoted to other issues. By reading them ahead of time, we can simply discuss them, she can make necessary edits and they can be approved. Emailing the minutes ahead of time leads to comments that should be discussed during the actual meeting. If this is amenable to all, she proposed putting this procedure in place starting with the November meeting. All members were in agreement.

Weeber House: 75 Cleveland Street, the Weeber house is for sale. This house dates back to 1807; Ted Weeber an prominent Norfolk resident. Betsy displayed a development plan showing 5 or 6 house sites for the NHC to consider. The realtor, Bill Ferellec, mentioned that there are

issues with the land and a road would need to be put in; we are concerned that the existing home will be torn down for access to develop the home sites. Betsy suggested to the realtor that the owner consider selling only house and a small portion of the land (perhaps 2 acres), and donate the remaining acres to the town. After a brief discussion NHC recommends the following options:

1. House on 2 acres sold at market rate by owner
2. Rest of land 17 acres should be sold or donated to CPC (if donated could be known as The Weeber Preserve)
3. Affordable housing

Project suggestions for the coming year:

- the Sesquicentennial History Book
- Demo Delay changes - suggestions included adding a new building plan and a fine for demolishing a building without a permit. Betsy will get copies of our demo delay law to review. It would also be helpful to look at the demo delay laws from other towns.
- Historic Plaques requested by homeowners: Green house on Cleveland Street that used to be Bourques and the Kingsbury house on Miller Street.
- N • Patrick Keegan has asked why his house is not on the website as one of the historic homes. Betsy will call Patrick to discuss the process of researching his house to add to the website.

Fales History: Geri has completed transcribing the manuscript and has divided a copy into 3 parts for editing. She and Gail each have a folder and she will contact Barbara for her part.

School House Talk: Betsey Whitney and Betsy Pyne will give a talk on Oct. 30 in the Library Schoolhouse on the history of the building.

Grange Preservation Restriction: Betsey W has followed up on the question raised at the September 7th meeting regarding who wrote the preservation restriction. She contacted Mass Historical Commission and spoke with Mike Steinitz who stated that the then Norfolk Town Counsel, George Hall, wrote the Grange Preservation Restriction, models were available to use as a writing guide; the document was then proofread and approved by MHC. It was accepted by the Grange; members of the Grange and Norfolk Historical Commission signed the official preservation restriction.

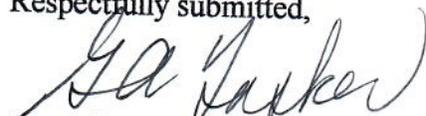
Mugs and Sweatshirts: Sandra revisited an earlier discussion about ordering mugs and selling them with sweatshirts at the library in December. Members would like the town seal on one side and the settlement date on the other. She will get estimates for the mugs. She also proposed putting together a gift basket to be raffled off.

Essay Contest: Members discussed moving forward with the Essay Contest, but changing the parameters to interest younger students. Geri mentioned that she spoke with Sarina Bluhm at the Norfolk Library and they would welcome such a project. She will work on revising the essay for elementary students. Suggested topics could include:

- What are the Warelands?
- How did Stoneybrook get started?
- Who was Malcolm X? What did he have to do with Norfolk?
- What is the importance of the Tramp House?
- What is the Grange all about?
- Where is Pondville?
- Who were the first settlers in Norfolk?

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Geraldine A. Tasker

Recording Secretary

