

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, February 1, 2021 (Remote Meeting)

PRESENT: David DeGhetto, Chairman, Jim Kelliher, Nancy McBride, Bob Norris, Alan Prouty, Anne Greene, Janet Watson

ALSO PRESENT: Barbara Mello, Ted Nichols

The meeting was called to order late at 7:02 PM. There were no citizen comments. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from last month as corrected.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following bills were submitted to members for approval:

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description/ Volume:	Date of Invoice:	Amount:	Account Number:
1. National Grid	Electric Service – Jacobs' Farmhouse	January 30, 2021	\$23.82	81-000-7065-5780
2. Zoom – Reimburse to Janet Watson	NHS – Monthly Meeting Zoom Service	January 1, 2021	\$15.93	01-691-0201-5780
3. Verizon	Verizon – Jacobs' Farm House	January 6, 2021	\$62.02	81-000-7065-5780
4. Albert Culver	Heating Oil – Jacobs' Farm House	December 31, 2020	\$400.97	81-000-7065-5780
5. Duxbury Construction, LLC	Septic System Investigation – Jacobs' Farmhouse	November 5, 2020	\$125.00	81-000-7065-5780
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$627.74	

A motion to approve payment of the bills was made by David DeGhetto, seconded by Bob Norris and unanimously approved by show of hands.

Alan reported that the available balances as of December 31, 2020 to support the activities of the Historical Commission were reported by the Town Accountant as follows:

1. Historical Commission General Expenses: \$4,000.
2. Jacobs Farm Income Fund: \$34,402.
3. Stetson Ford House: \$15,500

In addition, the Commission/ the Town of Norwell received the monthly rental payment of \$1,750. which will be credited to the Stetson-Ford House account. Also noted is that the Selectmen had received \$2,000 in 2020 from the Cross Street Flower Farm Inc. which has been credited to the Jacobs Farm Income Fund.

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JACOBS FARMHOUSE PROJECTS

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Ted reported that the updated and corrected drawings were received from TBA on 3/31/2021 and Ted is ready to send them to Historic New England and Massachusetts Historical Commission for approval. He contacted Peter Holtz at MHC who said that they would respond in a couple of weeks. Ted has determined that the carriage house and 1952 barn were not funded by MHC so their approval is not required for any work on those structures. The next step is writing the RFPs to solicit bids and Barbara Mello will be working to ensure that that is carried out efficiently and expects it will be one month project. Therefore, bids may potentially go out in mid March.

David asked about painting the interior of the apartment so that rental income would be generated. Ted said that the estimate for painting the interior is \$43,000 and money is being withheld until the major work is completed. The decision is that of Peter Morin and the Board of Selectmen. Janet commented that \$43,000 for interior painting was excessive and Ted explained that if a single contractor could be identified who was not subject to having to pay prevailing wages it might be much less expensive.

David reported that he and Janet will meet Nikki Bartley at the carriage house to find out what items are hers so other items that don't belong to anyone can be disposed of.

CUSHING TOMB UPDATE

David reported that he, Alan and Janet made a site visit to the tomb. There are a number of small trees blocking the view from the road and stones have been dislodged. David got a preliminary estimate from Gibraltar Stoneworks of about \$7500 to reset the granite blocks. Janet reported that while all the beneficiaries of the various wills have been identified but they are not particularly responsive to calls for information, so obtaining their formal approval may be difficult. Janet asked Peter Morin for a form to be sent to beneficiaries to transfer their interest to the town but has not received it yet. Kristin will ask Peter if the form letter is available. Bob Norris believes that CPC might favorably consider a proposal to pay for repairs even though the Town does not legally own the property. The Commission will make a request for CPC funds in the Fall.

DEMOLITION DELAY BYLAW SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The subcommittee which includes Jim Kelliher, Nancy McBride, Janet Watson and Kristin Ford had a productive meeting last week. Jim has written guidelines and instructions for applicants that is almost in a finalized form and the subcommittee discussed details of the process now that Kristin will be able to help from Town Hall. The problem of incomplete applications will be addressed by having the Building Department forward them to Kristin before sending them to the Commission. Kristin will return them if information is incomplete. Kristin and Nancy are going to work on a checklist to identify essential information. The subcommittee will meet

again before the next meeting and may have documents and procedures completed by that time for review.

PRESERVATION AWARD

Janet presented three nominations for the award as follows:

Barn restoration at 127 Main St. nominated by Noel Ripley
House at 840 Main St. restored by Mary Williams nominated by Wendy Bawabe
Cheever Tavern nominated by Janet

Commission members decided that all three were worthy of recognition. Bob made a motion to present the award to owners of these properties, David seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by show of hands. Janet will contact owners and organize the presentation at a Board of Selectmen meeting in March.

4 TIFFANY RD. UPDATE

The demolition permit for this property has been withdrawn. The Commission has no other information.

FOLLOW UP ON PLANNING MEETING

David reviewed the potential projects that the Commission would undertake in 2021. Commission confirmed that they were not undertaking a few of the goals on the original list. An updated list with current status is attached.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN LETTER OF SUPPORT

Janet did not complete this but will do it before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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