

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, June 1, 2020 (Remote Meeting)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ted Nichols

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from May.

BILLS

Due to social distancing restrictions, the Commission has designated Chairman Noel Ripley to sign the bills. David informed members that the following bills were received and sent to Noel for approval:

JFH (Acct. 81-000-7065-5780)

Albert Culver	\$ 139.19	Oil delivery
National Grid	\$50.34	electricity (3/14 -4/14)
National Grid	\$50.19	electricity (4/15 – 5/14)
Verizon	\$ 79.82	telephone/ alarm
Total	\$319.54	

RECEIVED
2020 JUL 16 PM 3:31
TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

David stated that the oil is being used to heat hot water and suggested that the hot water be turned off. Ted Nichols agreed to do so.

JACOBS FARM HOUSE

West Barn Rental

Janet announced that the task of coordinating the West Barn rental will be transferred to Anne Greene. Cross St. Flower Farms is renting the West Barn for CSA distribution for \$100.00 a week on a week to week basis. Nikki Bartley filled out the initial application form. Janet will send Anne the forms so that she can have Nikki fill out the requests for the remaining weeks.

Janet suggested that we form a subcommittee to explore ideas of how the West Barn could be used by the public. Anne and Nancy McBride agreed to participate.

Jacob Farm Projects

Ted discussed progress on the Jacobs Farms projects. They previously submitted a bill for \$450 for additional Architect fee work which Ted and Peter Morin denied because it was related to TBA specifications clarification on the lead abatement project. TBA plans to submit partial (50%) design, which they have billed for. Ted felt that we should have this work in hand before approving payment. Jim Kelliher stated that as an architect working on projects he would not be expected to get paid for prospective work. Commission members supported this position. Projects included in the design are roof repair (Farmhouse and Carriage house/ newer barn), outside trim work and painting, including doors (Farmhouse and outbuildings) , Museum handicapped bathroom and access, window work (Farmhouse Museum and outbuildings), shutters and structural work on the carriage house and newer barn. Noel stated that he is concerned about the carriage house and believes that needs to be given priority.

David stated that several years ago Brian Pfeiffer and Michael Burrey examined the carriage house and newer barn. He stated he is concerned that the structural work of repairing sills and rafters had to be done prior to finishing the roof. Ted is aware of this. Jim Kelliher thought that in light of the dilapidated condition of the roof a tarp might be needed to stop leaking. Ted said the plan is for TBA is to finalize the design document July 9, to put this work out to bid by July 22 and have all work completed by January 10. Noel and Jim felt it was important to have the roofing work completed in the fall before there might be any snow.

Janet raised issue of shutter color which will be either dark green or black. Commission members voted and the majority would like black shutters.

David discussed the handicapped accessibility project prefacing his remarks by citing the dire financial problems the Town will be facing due to the COVID economic fallout. David proposed cancelling this project as unnecessary and also damaging to the historic structure of the house due to the necessity of widening doorways. Ted noted that the project got a variance from the AAB so that only two existing doorways will need to be widened. Jim stated that the Town is under an order from the Commonwealth due to a complaint and this is tantamount to a court order and we have no choice except to proceed. Peter Morin told Ted that money is available and earmarked from CPA for all these projects. Commission determined that the work needs to proceed.

Other issues

David asked how long the sign congratulating Norwell seniors will be displayed. The original agreement was to keep it up eight weeks which would mean it would be displayed through July. Graduation has been scheduled for August. Commission members are in agreement to allow the sign to be displayed until graduation ceremonies.

David expressed his concern that the only permanent signs at Jacobs Farmhouse are for Cross St. Flower Farms. He would like to see a sign erected for the Jacobs property and suggested that we arrange this before the end of the fiscal year so we can use administrative funds. Janet mentioned that Wendy Bawabe has discussed waiting until there is a decision on the National

RECEIVED
2020 JUL 16 PM 3:34
TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

Registry application; however Janet's impression from conversations with Wendy is that MHC keeps asking for more information is not going to approve this application in the near future. Commission members were in agreement that having a high quality sign would be a good idea. Janet will discuss with Wendy to see if there is any reason to delay commissioning a sign. David will contact Tom Barry at the Building Department to see if there are any pertinent regulations.

AMERICAN ELM TREES

David is interested in documenting all the remaining American Elm trees in town and having the Commission fund care of the trees. He is aware of two elms, one on the Stetson Ford property and one on Rte 53 at Norwell Homes. The latter has a plaque. David believes there is a list of a couple other trees at Town Hall which is inaccessible due to limited access right now. Anne volunteered to post something on Norwell Social Facebook page so that amateur naturalists could look for the trees. Members were enthusiastic about this idea.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FORM B'S

Janet reported that she, Alan, and Anne were trained by Wendy Bawabe to complete the Form B's for historic houses and structures for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Local Commissions are responsible for this task, but Wendy had been doing it on a volunteer basis. She wants to transfer it back to NHC as she is falling behind. There are approximately 15 houses without any forms and several others that need updating or correction. Janet and Alan have started to work on the project which involves doing deed and other research to document the history, writing an architectural description, completing the form and filing with the MHC. The architectural description requires additional expertise and Janet asked if Jim and Noel could help with this. The other option is to hire someone to write the description. Jim and Noel are willing to work on it. Janet will send the list of houses that need the description to Jim and Noel.

MEETING FORMAT

David suggested that we tighten up the format for meetings so that no one interrupts and everyone gets a chance to talk. He suggested that Noel ask each member for comment and that no one interrupt. Nancy informed Noel that he had the capacity to mute everybody but the person talking. Noel and members agreed to try this, noting however that we are getting better using the technology.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. The next regular meeting as scheduled for July 6 but members decided to reschedule the meeting due to the July 4 holiday and hold it Monday, July 13 at 7:00 PM.