

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, October 5, 2020 (Remote Meeting)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ted Nichols and Ellen Allen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda as amended. David asked that in the future the agenda include an opportunity for citizens' comments and a recap at the end.

BILLS

Alan reported on the bills. Because he only assumed the position in the last couple of days he did not have the documents. He reported that the total expenditures for JFH (Acct. 81-000-7065-5780) were \$3266. This included R.E. Lyons for inspection of Fire extinguishers, Verizon, National Grid and a bill for \$2650 for four months of landscaping from O'Donnell landscaping. There was discussion about whether the landscaping bill was reasonable. Ted will look into the contract.

4 TIFFANY RD.

The Commission was advised that an application for a demolition permit was submitted by Paul Ricciardi a contractor on October 1. The house is not listed in the Norwell inventory of historic houses but the assessor gives it a date of @ 1850. Nancy McBride researched it online and reported that it is for sale so a new owner would have to apply for their own permit. Nancy provided photos via email that some members had looked at and it appears that the house has been altered and very few external or internal historic features seem to remain. Commission members decided they would like to make a site visit before making a determination whether it is historically significant. David will contact the applicant and make arrangements for Commission members to view the house. Determination will have to be made by October 31 prior to our next regularly scheduled meeting.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION – FUTURE PLANS FOR NHC

Anne Greene discussed her recommendation that the West Barn be rented to CSFF. She feels that we should look at the Farmhouse as a business and have money coming in to offset the expenses. She said that created a very lovely setting that is enjoyed by the Town. She would advocate for a process whereby repairs requested by CSFF could be more rapidly approved. This might be a subcommittee or one or two people to do approvals. There was discussion of work that might be required in the barn if it is being used by a tenant. Ted said there is a hole in the floor. Ted windows and small door of the chicken coop will be worked on as part of the TBA project Janet suggested that an overall evaluation of needed repairs with a cost estimate be completed to help figure out what would be a fair rent.

Janet expressed the opinion that the Commission was bogged down and should be less involved in the intricacies of the JFK project and simply be kept up to date about whether the

timeframes are being met. Janet advocated that the Commission think more about the overall vision for the property as well as other issues the Commission could be pursuing to carry out its mission. She also said that in her opinion the yards around the property are run down and that some landscaping should be done.

Jim Kelliher also agreed that the farmhouse should be run more like a business and have money coming in to offset expenses but also felt that the complexities could not be handled by a volunteer committee.

Due to time restraints the discussion was ended and the Commission was unable to discuss other goals.

UPDATES JACOBS PROPERTY/ STETSON FORD HOUSE

Ted said that as of now, \$353, 769 has been spent which represents 65% of the original Article funding prior to the additional funding added in 2020

He said he received drawings from TBA but they weren't complete as yet. Justin has scheduled a site visit which will be his first. David inquired about the painting and getting the rental unit available for lease and Ted said the BOS did not want to proceed until the work was completed which is scheduled for March.

The tree work has not been done at the Stetson Ford house because the lowest bidder raised the bid at \$3800 then increased it to \$5060 due to need to meet town regulations for insurance. This was considered too expensive so Ted is looking for a new company to remove the trees. Several names were suggested and Bob recommended talking to Glenn Ferguson to see who the town uses. John O'Rourke a carpenter who specializes in historic carpentry will fix the bulkhead door.

15 and 19 HIGH ST

An application for a permit to demolish these houses was received by the Building Department on October 2 from Sean Skehill. Several years ago an application was submitted to demolish the same buildings and NHC determined it to be historically significant. 19 High St. is in the inventory of historic resources for Norwell as the Charles Skully house @ 1865. 15 High St. is not in the inventory and the assessor's database gives it a date @ 1900. Commission members were inclined to determine the houses as historically significant due to the age and the fact that there had been a prior determination, however no vote was taken. Determination has to be made by November 1. Next meeting date is November 2.

RECAP

David recapped the meeting. Janet will send out action steps.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2020 NOV 19 AM 10:23
RECEIVED