

**MINUTES:** Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, June 7, 2021 (Remote Meeting)

**PRESENT:** David DeGhetto, Chairman, Jim Kelliher, Nancy McBride, Alan Prouty, Anne Greene, Janet Watson, Kristin Ford

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ted Nichols, Melissa McNamara, Monica MacKenzie, Michelle Neal

The meeting was called to order at 7:03. 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 revised.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The following bills were submitted to members for approval:

<b>Name of Vendor:</b>	<b>Item/ Activity Description/ Account No.</b>	<b>Date of Invoice:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	<b>Account Number:</b>
1. National Grid	Electric Service – Jacobs' Farmhouse: 51107-17064	May 30, 2021	\$18.86	81-000-7065-5780
2. Verizon	Verizon – Jacobs' Farm House: 356-445-719-0001-24	May 6, 2021	\$57.34	81-000-7065-5780
3. Albert Culver Company	Jacobs Farm House – Heating Oil: 4028	May 27, 2021	\$194.33	81-000-7065-5780
<b>Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:</b>			<b>\$270.53</b>	

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

Ted Nichols reported that TBA completed all phase 2 design work and submitted a bill for \$1500. Ted will distribute copy of invoice to members and would like the payment to be approved before the next meeting.

#### **42 CENTRAL STREET**

Melissa McNamara was present to discuss the proposal to demolish this house. Members had the opportunity to do a site visit in May. The house is in extremely deteriorated condition. The McNamaras have a purchase and sale agreement and would like to get permission to demolish the house and rebuild in a very similar style and size. Melissa was hoping that the plan this could be approved at the meeting, but since no application has been made and the steps in the bylaw would have to be followed that was not possible. Melissa expressed concern about being able to follow through with the project if decisions are delayed or there is uncertainty. Janet

commented that the house has a prominent place in the streetscape which is in the Norwell Village District on the National Registry and that it has been an eyesore for years. She recommended that the Commission support the McNamara's plan as the best alternative and try to expedite the process. David DeGhetto asked if the house might be suitable to dismantle and move. Melissa stated that they are willing to try to preserve any historical wood and bricks in the house. The Commission was unable to resolve this to Melissa's satisfaction due to lack of an application permit and plans for the new construction.

#### **691 RIVER ST.**

Jim Kelliher recused himself because his firm is working on this project. Melissa Neal the owner and Monica MacKenzie were present to present the project and had previously submitted plans and all required paperwork. There was some confusion as not all members had received the information however it was possible to display the plans on the screen. 691 River St. is a 1750 Colonial and is important historically as the home of the Barstow shipbuilding family. The new owners want to add a large addition on the rear and a two car garage to the right side that will be built to look like a barn. A 200 year old Norway spruce tree will be saved and will block the view of the garage from the street. Monica emphasized that the original house will remain unaltered and the addition will use historically appropriate design and materials. After discussion and review of the plans, Commission members felt that the project was being done in a historically sensitive manner and were satisfied that the project would preserve the historical qualities of the house. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by show of hands to approve the project.

#### **8 WENDELL AVE AND 51 TIFFANY ROAD**

Kristen reported that two permits had been received for these addresses that involved minor work (reshingling and replacing vinyl siding on a house which already has vinyl siding.) A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by show of hands to approve these applications. Janet recommended that we assign a point person to make some decisions on some of the permits so that they do not have to be presented at a meeting. Jim asked Janet to draft a proposal which she agreed to do.

#### **JACOBS FARM UPDATE**

Ted reported that finalized ads for bids were submitted June 5. A site visit is planned for June 15 and bids are due June 23 and June 30. If all goes as planned, construction might start on August 1 and the project could be completed by the end of December. Ted said there is \$319,083 allotted for Base Bid work and \$124,959 for Alternates so there is a cushion in case expenses are higher.

#### **HIGH STREET UPDATE**

Kristin reported that 56 unit apartment which qualifies as affordable housing has been proposed for High St. and would require the demolition of four houses. 15 and 19 High St. had a demolition delay previously imposed and it has expired. The assessors files state that 27 and 35 High St. were built in 1951 and 1953 . If that is the case they are not the concern of the Historical Commission, however David noted that MACRIS has a date of 1941 for 27 High St. making it more than 75 years old.

#### **CROSS ST FLOWER FARM UPDATE**

Kristin reported that both BOS and Historic New England approved the replacement of the lights in the West Barn so the approval process is complete.

#### **CUSHING TOMB PROPERTY**

The plan to have Keaney Tree Service remove the trees was not implemented because the company did not have required insurance. There are no alternative plans for the tree work yet. The plan remains in place for the Commission to request the money for the granite work from CPC funds in the fall but they won't be available unless they are approved at Town Meeting in spring 2022.

#### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPLICATION UPDATE**

No additional work has been done on the idea of developing a specific Historical Commission application. Jim stated that he was not sure it was necessary. The process for NHC review of applications is still not finalized. Kristin stated that she feels that within the next month the process of referral from the building department will be worked out. Janet recommended additional work on the details of the process to improve communication and flow.

#### **FORM B UPDATE**

Janet reported that of the 25 Form B's that need to be completed, 6 have been submitted and approved over the last month.

#### **NSTV PRESERVATION AWARDS**

All the filming for the videos has been done and now NSTV will work on compiling and editing.

#### **REORGANIZATION OF HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

With Bob Norris's resignation, the Commission needs a new member and a CPC liaison. Rachel Wollum who is a current CPC member is being appointed by the BOS to serve in this role. Kristin asked whether Jim Kelliher and David DeGhetto whose terms are expiring this month are going to continue and both agreed to do so. Kristin asked about David's term as Chairman. David suggested that Nancy McBride take the role now that his term has ended (David was finishing

the term of former Chair Noel Ripley.) Nancy agreed to accept the position. Anne Greene was nominated as Vice Chair and agreed to take this position. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by show of hands to elect Nancy Mc Bride as Chair and Anne Greene as Vice Chair.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

David acknowledged and thanked Bob Norris for his work on the Commission although Bob was not present.

There was discussion about the possibility of having meetings in person and an agreement was made to resume in-person meetings next month.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM

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2021 JUL 21 PM 12:11  
TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK