

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Wednesday, January 16, 2018

PRESENT: Noel Ripley, Chair, David DeGhetto, Jim Kelliher, Nancy McBride, Bob Norris, Trish Shepherd, Janet Watson

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda as amended. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from December 6, 2017 as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Trish Shepherd reported the following invoices:

Account #81-000-7065-5780 (JFH Income)

Verizon	\$47.58	telephone
National Grid	\$18.32	Nov electricity
National Grid	\$29.91	Dec electricity
Albert Culver	\$105.81	oil delivery
O'Donnell Landscaping	\$2075.00	landscape services
Flight Alarm	\$360.00	fire alarm
Flight Alarm	\$336.00	burgler alarm
Total	\$2972.61	

Account #270-24-691-6131-5780 (Stetson Ford House)

Flight Alarm	\$480.00	alarm maintenance
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Bills were unanimously approved.

SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON FORD HOUSE

David reported that the sill work has been completed and the house is ready to be moved. Bob Norris reported that discussions with the Stetson Kindred about moving the house to their property are ongoing. Selectman Greg McBride is involved and numerous emails have gone back and forth. Commission members agreed that a final decision needs to be made about the location soon. If the final plan is not to move the house to the Stetson Kindred property, commission members are generally in agreement that the site to the left of the cemetery driveway is the preferred location dependent on determining if there will be significant additional costs due to changes in the septic plan. The new site may require a variance to allow the septic pipes to go under the driveway. The Kindred will be asked to make a final proposal by the time of our next meeting (February 5) and a decision regarding the Commission's final recommendation for the house site will be on the agenda at that time.

DESIGNER FOR JACOBS FARMHOUSE PROJECT

The Town has sent TBA (the firm selected through the RFQ process) a contract and is awaiting final agreement.

238 RIVER ST BARN

Jim Kelliher met with the builder for this house and they discussed ways to maintain more of the historical appearance of the barn. The builder seemed interested in Jim's recommendations. Discussions and reviews of the plans need to continue because the demolition delay terminates in June.

206 SUMMER ST DEMOLITION PERMIT

The Eugene Mattie the owner of 206 Summer St. submitted an application for a demolition permit on December 18, 2017. He was invited to the meeting but did not attend. Per discussion with Noel, he is aware of Commission's desire to avoid demolition and is considering keeping the structure as an outbuilding or extension of a large house that he plans to build on the lot. The new house will face in the other direction (away from the street) and will be part of the existing Cowing Cove development off of Summer St. Nancy McBride attempted to arrange a site visit but Mr. Mattie did not get back to her. Janet Watson commented that the house in question is part of a small group of historic houses on Summer St. and is integral to historic streetscape of the small area. The Form B indicates that the house was built about 1860. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to determine that the house is historically significant. Noel will immediately notify the owner of the determination and request a demolition plan within sixty days (March 16, 2018).

WEBSITE FOR STRUCTURES AVAILABLE TO MOVE

Janet requested as initial discussion of the potential value and feasibility of setting up a website to advertise structures facing demolition that are available to be moved. Bob Norris commented that builders often offer to give the building to anyone willing to take it so that a website might result in some buildings being moved instead of demolished. Nancy suggested that the website could link to a site with photos and detailed description of the structure. The consensus was that there might be limited benefit but on the other hand it might not be a cumbersome process to establish a website. Janet agreed to explore whether the town would agree to a website and how it could be set up.

FACILITIES DIRECTOR

David continues to have confidence that the new facilities director Ted Nichols will be accessible and helpful.

HISTORICAL HOUSE TOUR

Trish announced that the tour will be held on Friday October 12, 2018.

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report is due February 16, 2018. Janet passed around a draft and asked for comments so that the final draft can be reviewed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:15 PM in Room 3.