

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, May 3, 2021 (Remote Meeting)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Barbara Mello, Ted Nichols,

The meeting was called to order at 7:08. There were no citizen comments. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda as changed. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from last month with corrections.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following bills were submitted to members for approval:

| | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. National Grid | Electric Service – Jacobs' Farmhouse: 51107-17064 | May 1, 2021 | \$21.96 | 81-000-7065-5780 |
| 2. Verizon | Verizon – Jacobs' Farm House: 356-445-719-0001-24 | April 6, 2021 | \$57.34 | 81-000-7065-5780 |
| 3. TBA Architects | Article 41 (Roofing) – Jacobs Farmhouse | April 30, 2021 | \$321.82 | 15-194-8034-6735 |
| 4. TBA Architects | Article 39 (Restoration) – Jacobs Farmhouse | April 30, 2021 | \$624.11 | 15-194-8069-6726 |
| 5. TBA Architects | Article 40 (Cider Room) – Jacobs Farmhouse | April 30, 2021 | \$48.65 | 15-194-8077-6774 |
| 6. TBA Architects | Article 10 (Accessibility) – Jacobs Farmhouse | April 30, 2021 | \$134.22 | 15-194-8084-6780 |
| 7. Ould Colony Artisans (73 Devonshire Street, Providence, R.I. 02908) | Production of two signs for: J. Sparrell Building (1930) and E. Clapp House (1809) | April 28, 2021 | \$124.00 | 01-691-0201-5780-0000 |
| Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above: | | | \$1332.10 | |

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

CROSS STREET FLOWER FARMS

Nikki Bartley has asked to change the light fixtures in the West Barn. David clarified that the procedure to make any changes is to fill out the Request for Project Approval and send it to the Historical Commission and Historic New England. The Historical Commission will send the form

to the Board of Selectmen. Nikki has completed the necessary forms. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed by show of hands to approve the request which David will send to the BOS.

CUSHING TOMB

David has obtained an estimate from Keaney Tree Service in the amount of \$1600 to clear the area of small trees. The large trees will not be removed. Keaney Tree Service has the necessary insurance. Nancy asked that the proposal be circulated to members which David will do. David would like the work to be done now so it can be paid for out of current year funds. Ted confirmed that additional estimates are not needed because the cost is under the limit for this requirement. David also got estimates to repair the granite stones from Gibraltar Stone. Robert Merritt a local stonemason looked at the job but does not have the necessary equipment to do the work. The plan is 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. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed by show of hands to approve expenditure of Commission funds for the tree work.

JACOBS FARM UPDATE

TBA submitted new drawings and specifications on 4/14 and 4/16 that incorporated the changes required by HNE and MHC. Per Ted, TBA captured about 80% of those changes so the work has been returned for corrections. Ted expects that Justin from TBA will complete this by the end of this week. Ted detailed some of the revisions needed such as design of the handicap walkway, cold water line in the Museum bathroom, and carriage roof flashing among others. Ted said that this would add a couple of weeks to the projected timelines from last month but that if the bidding goes smoothly, work should start in the beginning of July. Of concern is the recent spike in the cost of materials and lack of availability. This could affect the project due to the large amount of cedar shingles needed for the roof. Ted said that there is \$486,945 available for construction and the estimated cost is \$442,042 (\$319,083 Base Bid work, \$124,959 Alternates) so there is a cushion in case expenses are higher.

4 TIFFANY RD.

Kristin looked into this and was told by the Building Department that the application for a demolition originally filed in October has expired. If a new application is filed, the Commission will take up the issue again. Janet suggested that the contractor who has been communicating with the Commission be notified by the Commission that there is no longer an active permit, but the consensus was that this is the responsibility of the Building Department and the applicant.

DEMOLITION DELAY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

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Jim Kelliher reported for the subcommittee which has been working on clarifying the application process. Jim forwarded his latest revision of the information sheet to Commission members before the meeting. Jim's focus is bringing the process in line with the bylaw. Jim reviewed the information sheet which delineates three types of demolition (complete demolition, partial demolition required for an addition and partial demolition required for removal or replacement of historical elements) and describes documentation required from the applicant for each type of demolition. Janet who is on the subcommittee presented her minority opinion which is that in cases of partial demolition less documentation be required and that the guidelines should state clearly that the issue can be resolved at the initial meeting. Janet's rationale was that the process should be less bureaucratic for small projects undertaken by owners of historic houses. There is also a draft of a new Historical Commission application which Janet believed should be simplified. Anne Greene voiced her agreement with this position but other members of the Commission strongly supported Jim's position feeling that it better protected historic houses. A vote was not taken as it was clear that the Commission was split on this issue. Nancy presented another problem which was that the Building Department is not sending applications for partial demolition to the Commission. David suggested that a meeting with Peter Morin and Bob Galvin be scheduled as soon as possible to present the drafts and discuss the procedures with the Building Department. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to send a copy of the current draft application to Peter Morin and Bob Galvin for review and comments. At a later date (after Town Meeting) the Committee will request a meeting with Peter to clarify what applications will be reviewed by the Commission.

FORM B UPDATE

Janet reported that there are 25 Form B's that need to be completed. The historical research has been completed on about 75% of them. Cary Wolinsky a professional photographer has taken photos of most of the houses and will be completing the remainder in the next couple of weeks. The process is stalled because of the need to get architectural descriptions. Janet contacted MHC and got guidelines and discussion led to a decision to have Commission members try to do these themselves using the guidelines. Janet will send the guidelines to members working on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

David reported that terms are up in June for himself, Jim and Bob. Bob announced that he would be resigning from the Commission after this term. Alan asked about the tree removal at Stetson From house. Ted and David have identified a tree service and this will be done before the end of the fiscal year.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM

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