

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, August 6, 2018

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

ABSENT: Jim Kelliher

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 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 July.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bills for this month are:

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

Gibraltar Stonecraft	\$585.00	foundation restoration
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Account #81-000-7065-5780 (JFH Income)

Verizon	\$47.67	telephone
National Grid	\$47.52	electricity
O'Donnell Landscaping	\$2820	landscaping since Aug 2017
Home Depot	\$27.32	lights for West Barn
Total	\$2942.51	

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Payment of invoices was unanimously approved.

JACOBS FARMHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Trish reported that the carriage house looks unsightly when you drive by on Main St. because it is filled with equipment and junk. No one on the Commission knows who owns the items.

David agreed to discuss the situation with Norwell Farms (specifically DeeDee Tobias) and is looking for the rental agreement to review. He is going to take some pictures. David also would like to look at the original items belonging to Jacobs Farm that are being stored in the vicinity such as the wooden cart and cider press to make sure they are being stored properly and will discuss this with Glenn Ferguson.

26 BLOCK HOUSE LANE

Owners Daniel and Marie Cimorelli are proposing to put a dormer on the rear of this 18th century house which will require partial demolition. Dormer will not be visible from the front. The project was approved consistent with the plans submitted. Noel will notify the Building Department.

SERGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE UPDATE

Noel reported that final designs of septic system, elevation and foundation are in process so progress continues to be made slowly but surely. David reported that the Stetson Kindred donated \$600 which is being held by the Historical Society. Money was originally to be used for dating the house but since this bill has been paid, money will be used for future projects.

JACOBS FARMHOUSE TBA CONTRACT

Noel reported on current status of the TBA contract. As reported before, the contract was negotiated by the Town and included only Phase 1 of the project. The contract was signed without giving the Commission an opportunity to review the final version. Now a contract is required for Phase 2 and the Commission is being asked to approve it. Noel has been involved in reviewing the second contract and has been able to negotiate a reduction in cost of almost \$10,000 but the total contract (Phase 1 and 2) is still approximately \$22,600 over the original cost expectations which were communicated to TBA when it interviewed for the job. Noel also has come across a discrepancy related to hazmat testing that was \$2500 in the original figures he was given and is now \$4500. Noel will follow up on this. The Commission feels stuck because at this point firing TBA would result in delays, potential litigation and probably result in the costs being the same or higher. After discussion, the Commission voted to approve the contract for Phase 2 by a vote of five (5) approving and one (1) abstention (David DeGhetto). Bob Norris offered his opinion that in the future the Commission should make it a requirement to review the final version of any contract if the Commission will be asked to approve the resulting expenses.

WEST BARN MAINTENANCE

Janet reported that Cross St. Flowers asked to use the barn for a class on July 28. Owner Nikki Barkley called Janet to report that the barn was dusty and also that a few lights were out. When Janet went to check on the barn, Nikki was there and reported that she had already called Ted Nichols directly and he had cleaned the barn and changed all of the lights. Janet spoke to Ted and clarified that the Commission had not asked Nikki to call him. Discussion was held about what to do about maintenance and cleaning in the future. Ideas were requiring a cleaning fee or security deposit so that money would be available to clean the barn if it was left in poor condition. Janet's opinion is that the "dust" was the result normal cobwebs and debris that typically accumulate in barns. Concerns are that we don't want to discourage the few groups (mostly garden clubs) using the barn with high fees and very little money is generated relative to the inconvenience of receiving and returning checks for security deposits and cleaning fees. Commission members clarified that it is not Ted Nichols' job to do that maintenance himself. Janet suggested renting the barn "as is" and giving renters the option of paying a cleaning fee if they didn't want to sweep and dust. Janet will look into this and draft

changes to the rental agreement for consideration by the Commission and Board of Selectmen. David will look into rates charged by cleaning companies.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 10.

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