

**MINUTES:** Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, December 3 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 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 November as corrected.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Trish Shepherd presented the following invoices:

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

Verizon	\$48.17	telephone
National Grid	\$20.46	electricity
Albert Culver	\$105.00	furnace service
Total	\$173.63	

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

Albert Culver	\$194.00	furnace service
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Bills were unanimously approved.

Trish also reported that she has calculated the average amount of electricity for months when the pump is not being used which comes to \$21.28 per month. The average for the four months when the pump was used is \$39.41 or \$18.03 per month for a total of \$72.12. There was discussion about whether to bill Norwell Farms for this small amount but the consensus was that this is a contractual obligation and should be billed. Janet will notify DeeDee Tobias and send an invoice.

Trish also gave a report on the budget. We will ask for the usual amount of \$4000 for the general account. There is \$47,821.00 remaining in the JFH Account.

David reported that Ted Nichols says there are repairs needed for the Jacobs Farmhouse furnace that will amount to about \$200.

### **SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE**

Michael Burrey (North Bennet St. School) has sent a proposal to do additional work on the house, specifically clapboards, doors, windows and chimney. The amount comes to \$13,000. There were some questions about the proposal including the timing as it may be problematic to do the work before the house is on the foundation. It was decided to ask Michael to attend the January meeting. There was also discussion about whether the proposal would have to go out to bid. The funds will come from the current moving account so the Commission could purchase the materials and just pay for the labor bringing the proposal under the amount that requires competitive bidding.

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Ted Nichols is working on the RFP for the move. The foundation and elevation plan is near completion. Jim Kelliher drew a new plan for the handicapped ramp that will not require a rail and will be less obtrusive.

Maybe the house will be moved in the spring.

### **DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT BYLAW**

David and Janet have met with the Police Chief Ross, Fire Chief Reardon and the Board of Health to discuss their interest in this proposal. Fire Chief Reardon is most interested due to his concern about vacant houses being fire hazards. The Police Department does not have a particular concern about vacant houses and the Board of Health is mainly concerned about health and safety of houses with inhabitants. They do get involved if there is animal infestation but this is usually reported by neighbors. Janet received sample bylaws and reviews of various laws by the Attorney General from Chris Skelley at the Mass Historical Commission and will send them out to all members. David and Janet will continue researching.

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD**

A couple of properties were discussed as possible award winners. It was decided that Commission members will give more formal presentations of houses or buildings they want to nominate at the January meeting and the winner will be decided by vote.

### **NATIONAL REGISTER JACOBS FARM HOUSE**

Wendy Bawabe forwarded a letter from the Mass Historical Commission acknowledging receipt of the application, however it may take 18 months to two years for it to be reviewed.

### **206 SUMMER ST. DEMOLITION DELAY**

David discussed Eugene Mattie's lack of compliance with the bylaw with Tom Barrie the Building Inspector and it is Tom's opinion that he can refuse a demolition permit on this account. As discussed at the last meeting, Town Counsel Bob Galvin has a different opinion and believes that the permit has to be provided at the end of the delay period. The group was split regarding how to proceed, some feeling that the Commission should continue to ask for Mr. Mattie's cooperation and others feeling that he has not given any indication he will cooperate and it is a waste of time. The consensus reached seems to be that we would be better off working on changes in the bylaw, specifically requiring more information from the applicant before the clock starts on the process as the Commission only has 30 days from the time to application to make the determination of whether the home is historically significant and this has been difficult when the group meets only monthly.

### **EAST BARN**

David and Trish met Cara from Cross Street Farms and cleaned out the bays. They passed around pictures and the East Barn is now very presentable from Main St. Trish suggested that the lease agreement be changed from allowing Norwell Farms to use the open bays to giving them space in the closed barn so that the bays can be used for displays of antique items and not get filled up with equipment from the farm operation. Noel will discuss this with Alison DeMong as the Selectmen oversee the lease agreement.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:15.