

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, January 7, 2019

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

Also attending: Alan Prouty, Michael Burrey, Ted Nichols, Nancy Dooley, Coleen Sullivan-Locchi and Roy Falk

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 December.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trish Shepherd presented the following invoices:

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

Home Depot	\$5.28	supplies
Verizon	\$48.17	telephone
National Grid	\$24.06	electricity
O'Donnell landscaping	\$2680.00	mowing from Aug through Oct and fall cleanup
Flight Alarm	\$336.00	annual monitoring burglar alarm
Flight Alarm	\$360.00	annual monitoring fire alarm
Total	\$3448.23	

Bills were unanimously approved.

Janet questioned cost of landscaping. Each mowing is \$150.00. Other members noted that O'Donnell is reliable and yard looks better than it did before. Janet will try to get a couple other estimates to compare prices.

SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE

Jim Kelliher has been working on a plan for accessibility to the house. He has designed a gradual incline to the left side of the house that will eliminate the need for a metal ramp in the future. Since the house will eventually need handicapped access, Jim advised that this should be done as part of the foundation and landscape work. Ted Nichols will incorporate Jim's plan in the RFP's.

Bob and Noel are going to temporarily install stakes so that Selectmen and public can understand where the house will be sited.

Michael Burrey (North Bennet St. School) was at the meeting to discuss the proposal to do additional work on the house, specifically clapboards, doors, windows and chimney. The amount comes to \$13,000. He said that some work (taking down the plaster ceiling) could be done immediately but additional work should wait until the fall when the building is permanently on the foundation. The proposal includes materials and it has been determined since the last meeting that it would not be legal for NHC to purchase materials to reduce the cost of the proposal and an RFP will be required. Ted will write the RFP which will have to go out to bid. Michael's

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students are not trained to build windows of the type needed so the cost of windows is not included in the proposal. Someone like Gary Naylor could do this work.

Michael explained the reason for removing the plaster. It appears that the beams are beaded and hand planed and the plaster ceiling is probably not original to the house. The house dates from approximately 1728 and plaster ceilings were not common until the mid-18th century.

Pros and cons of insulation were discussed. There is very little room in the original house to install insulation and there are concerns about accumulation of moisture. There is a more recent addition to the left of the house and Michael recommended insulating that area and installing plumbing and heating there so this section could be used year-round in the future. The incline for accessibility goes to this section so insulating this area and leaving the original part of the house uninsulated appears to be a good solution.

27 ASSINIPPI AVE

Nancy Dooley and Coleen Sullivan-Locchi from Norwell Housing Authority and architect Ray Falk presented plans to renovate this house. The house was moved from Hanover in the 1980's and has been remodeled over the years. The date the house was built is unclear but due to renovations over the years it does not retain many historical features. It is apparently listed in the registry of historic homes. It was used as a group home and needs renovations to bring it up to code. There is no demolition involved and house will maintain the appearance it has had since the 1980's. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to approve the project as per the plan presented.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD

Several houses were discussed as possible winners of the preservation award. Members thought that it should go to a house where recent work had been done and completed. The group chose the house at 29 Prospect St. (Zebulon Silvester House, circa 1711) owned by Harry Merritt. Harry got approval for his renovation from NHC in April 2017. He has restored this house which was in danger of demolition and has tried to use historically accurate techniques and materials even to the extent of milling his own lumber. Janet will coordinate details of presenting the award.

EAST BARN

David reported that the fire engine that was housed in the East Barn has been removed to Scituate to be renovated. How this happened is not clear but NHC was not involved and does not own the fire engine. Noel reported that Norwell Farms is not covered by the insurance for the farm and will notify DeeDee Tobias who inquired about this. David is in discussion with Carissa DeMore about a wet area between the West and East barn that needs to be addressed.

NORWELL GRANGE

Jim reported that the Grange needs immediate attention because the roof is leaking and the basement was filled with water. The heating system was also broken for a while but is working now. Jim is concerned that the building is at risk for further serious deterioration if repairs are not initiated soon. Jim talked with the AAB regarding handicapped access and there is possible