

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, March 4, 2019

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

ABSENT: Trish Shepherd

ALSO ATTENDING:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes from February as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Trish Shepherd, Nancy presented the bills:

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

Verizon	\$49.15	telephone
National Grid	\$15.69	electricity
Collins Heating and Cooling	\$371.56	flue repair

Account # 15-194-8085-6781 (JFH Art. 11)

TBA	\$533.76	Hazardous material evaluation
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Account # 15-194-8085-67261 (JFH Art. 39)

TBA	\$1134.24	hazardous material evaluation
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Account #691-201-5780-000 (General Account)

Wendy Bawabe	\$80.53	reimbursement for mailing to new home owners
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These bills were unanimously approved.

The Merrill statement in the amount of \$525 was discussed last month. Jim redesigned the handicapped access for the Sargeant Samuel Stetson House and sent a detailed plan to Merrill. In his opinion, this bill is excessive for the work required by Merrill. Jim spoke to Peter Palmieri at Merrill who agreed to look into it but he hasn't gotten back to Jim yet.

There were two statements from Albert Culver for two oil deliveries to Jacobs Farmhouse in the amount of \$1249.83. This seems excessive and requires more explanation. David will call Albert Culver.

Approval of these bills was tabled awaiting further explanation.

NORWELL GRANGE

The PRA for the Norwell Grange has been signed by the required number of NHC members and is awaiting the signature of Denise Laiosa. Denise was on the agenda to present plans for the repairs and restoration but Jim saw the plans and advised her that they were not sufficient for the NHC to discuss.

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Jim suggested we use the time to discuss NHC's role as overseer of buildings under preservation agreement. NHC has been designated to represent the Town and has authority to approve or disapprove any construction, painting, or repairs undertaken on the exterior or interior of the building. Jim suggested that we as a group need to define our standards and procedures. In general, are there different standards for a building with a preservation agreement as contrasted with a homeowner who has a plan for a dormer or window replacement? The Commission agreed that we do not have clear authority in cases where a homeowner is undertaking a project and any involvement is based solely on the demolitions delay bylaw. However there is clear authority conveyed by a preservation agreements. In terms of standards are we demanding use of historically accurate materials or allowing more modern materials to be used that are considered to be in the style of the architecture? Do we want the building to have the appearance of an antique building or a renovated building? Do additions have to match the style of the building and appear old or could they look like modern additions and use modern materials as long as they complement the style of the original? Jim noted that Historical Commissions in other towns have a detailed list of documents that have to be submitted before the commission will review the project but we do not. The PRA agreement is general and leaves it up to the Commission to make decisions about whether projects and plans are acceptable under the terms of the PRA.

Commission members note that we had already advised the Liaos as that a detailed plan would be required with specifications for materials before we will approve the plans. Bob noted that he had heard opinions that the project was approved once the PRA was sent to the Mass Historic Commission so someone should have a conversation with the Liaos as soon as possible so there are no misunderstandings.

Noel and Jim will work on a list of materials that they feel are essential to maintain the historic appearance and integrity of the Grange which could serve as standards for this particular building.

This discussion was not concluded with a real agreement and will have to be revisited.

25 WASHINGTON ST

This is a commercial building dating from the 18th century. Marlene Ketchen who owns a kitchen and bath shop is hoping to buy the building and attended the meeting to make sure that the Commission would approve her plans. She is planning to paint the exterior and making only minor alterations. There is a relatively modern addition used to connect the barn to the main building that is collapsing and will be demolished. The Commission does not object to this. Marlene would like a letter from the Commission to the bank advising them that the plans are acceptable. Janet will write the letter for Noel's signature.

PRESERVATION AWARD

The Preservation Award will be presented to Harry Merritt on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:35 PM at the Board of Selectman meeting. Janet will arrange for the certificate and Kate Walsh at the Mariner will write an article in the newspaper. Noel will make the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Next regular meeting will be Monday, April 1 at 7:00 PM.

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