

**MINUTES:** Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, August 12, 2019

**PRESENT:** Noel Ripley, David DeGhetto, Jim Kelliher, Bob Norris, Janet Watson, Anne Greene

**ABSENT:** Nancy McBride, Alan Prouty

Prior to the meeting, members talked with Dawnmarie Mannering-Frencek who purchased a house at 10 Dover St. Dawnmarie will be doing renovations and adding an addition and wanted information about the role of the Historical Commission. Generally her plans seemed to be ones that would be approved. The Commission's role was explained and Dawnmarie was advised to try to get any permits and plans for work to be initiated in the fall filed in time that they could be reviewed at the Commission's meeting on September 9.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 1.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer David DeGhetto presented the following bills:

<b>Account #81-000-7065-5780</b>	<b>(JFH Income)</b>	
Verizon	\$49.45	telephone
National Grid	\$ 49.42	electricity
O'Donnell Landscaping	\$2605.00	landscaping services from April 16 through July 23
Total	\$2703.35	

These bills were unanimously approved.

#### **CROSS STREET FLOWER FARM**

Nikki Bartley owner of Cross Street Flower Farm (CSFF) had asked to be on the agenda to get approval for the connection of the Verizon fiber optic line to the East Barn but did not attend the meeting. The issue was discussed anyway. Nikki will have to file an application with Historic New England to proceed. The Commission voted to approve the connection once HNE gives its permission. There was further discussion about desire of CSFF to expand its operation to additional fields and greenhouses. David DeGhetto pointed out that the agreement with HNE for the property was to allow non-commercial ventures only and also noted that the expansion of greenhouses modernizes the appearance of the farm and neighbors have objected. These concerns, however, are outside the purview of the Commission since the business operates on Conservation property.

#### **165 HIGH ST.**

Ray Miller, owner of this property attended the meeting to discuss the demolition permit he filed on July 22, 2019. This house is a Cape built in the 1870's with dormers and additions. Ray has no definite plans to demolish the house but was seeking a permit in case he sold it and the buyer wished to build a new house. He was informed that a new owner would have to file for a

new permit. Mr. Miller is also considering demolishing the house so he can build a new house to put on the market. Commission members encouraged him to get a real estate assessment of the current house and also look into creating a new lot from the four acres belonging to the property rather than focus on demolition because besides preserving a historic property it would probably be more economically advantageous. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to make a formal determination that the house was historically significant.

### **SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE**

David DeGhetto reported on the outcome of the first meeting of the subcommittee to recommend a plan for the house. Chairman of the subcommittee, Selectman Jason Brown does not want to move the house to the cemetery site due to opposition from the cemetery committee. Other possible plans were considered, but the only one that appeared feasible was to find a private owner. Since the subcommittee meeting, there has been some interest expressed by the First Parish Church who may be interested in obtaining the house and having it placed in a lot they own in Norwell Center (opposite Norris Reservation) for use as a residence for Church staff. NHC members were enthusiastic about this possibility but no formal proposal has been made as yet.

### **JACOBS FARM HOUSE**

The subcommittee met and accepted a bid for deleading from Ray's Services in Lawrence for \$140,000. Although it was expected that the deleading would cost less due to changes in the regulations, unfortunately the bids were all in excess of the original estimates.

Carissa DeMore and David inspected the property and there are two repairs that have to be made. They are repair of the man door in the East Barn and repair of rotted floor board in the rear of the West barn. David has filled out the necessary application to NHE to get permission to make the repairs and will get estimates. The Commission will wait for the estimates before approving.

Chimney repairs have been suspended until Ted Nichols gets permission from the Mass Historical Commission which must approve any large projects. Commission members did not feel that the chimney work was significant enough to require approval. Concern was expressed about any delays to projects due to the perception of residents that nothing is getting done.

### **STETSON FORD HOUSE**

David DeGhetto, Alan Prouty and Ted Nichols accompanied Michael Burrey when he inspected the house on July 26. A detailed list of items to be repaired was submitted. One problem that should be corrected immediately is that the ell is overloaded with storage items owned by the tenants. After discussion about how to handle this matter, it was agreed that David will talk to the tenants.

## **WEST BARN**

Janet received a request from North River Gardeners to be able to use the lawn for tables for their plant sale next spring. Commission members had no problem with that request.

## **GRANGE**

Jim Kelliher asked for clarification of the status of the American Legion proposal for the Grange. Jim is skeptical that the Legion's proposal will work because they expect to rely on volunteers and do not have money for materials. His concerns were shared by other members. Janet confirmed that she had sent Peter Kuluk the historic preservation guidelines for the Grange so he should be aware of the expectations. The Board of Selectmen will be making decisions about how to proceed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 9, 2019.