

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, September 9, 2019

PRESENT: Noel Ripley, Jim Kelliher, Bob Norris, Alan Prouty, Janet Watson, Anne Greene

ABSENT: Nancy McBride, David DeGhetto

ALSO ATTENDING: Becky Freed and Judy Enright

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 August 12 and August 26 as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Janet Watson presented the following bills in the absence of Treasurer David DeGhetto:

Account #81-000-7065-5780	(JFH Income)
Verizon	\$50.03 telephone
National Grid	\$ 45.34 electricity
Total	\$95.37

Account #15-194-8085-6781	(JFH – CPC Lead Abatement)
Gate House Media	\$661.44 publication of RFP

Account #15-194-8069-6726	(JFH-CPC)
Ted Nichols	\$159.98 AIA Contract templates (2 @ \$79.99)

These bills were unanimously approved.

CROSS STREET FLOWER FARM

Nikki Bartley had asked to be on the agenda but cancelled. Becky Freed explained that she attended the meeting to learn what was going on with CSFF. She is concerned that the license has been given to CSSF without a bidding process and feels it is a commercial operation that does not serve a large segment of the town as did Norwell Farms. Commission members recounted the meeting of August 26 and explained that NHC did not have authority and had not been consulted about the decision. Janet Watson reported that she had read the documents that David DeGhetto provided on August 26 and clause 18 of the Preservation Agreement states that any use of the premises that is expressly prohibited but was undertaken due to changes in circumstances that made them more economically valuable would not be cause to terminate the agreement. This clause seemed to justify Historic New England's approval of the use of the land for commercial purposes. Commission members felt that it had already been determined that it was not within our purview so did not discuss this further. Janet also reported that CSFF is planning a Dahlia Festival and there were initial reports were that they would be charging a fee. The fee is not going to be charged, but Janet expressed concern about charging a fee for entrance onto Town property. It was agreed that CSFF should be reminded to inform the Commission if they planned to utilize the yard as part of any of their

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activities. Alan Prouty suggested that we do some research about the use of the fields by the Jacobs family in order to be a position to offer suggestions about historic use of the fields.

67 RIVER ST/ DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT BYLAW PROPOSAL

Judy Enright attended to discuss her concerns about the house at 67 River St. the former E.L. Nathan Cushing house. This was sold to E.O.C. Beacon LLC in December 2014 and has been vacant and is seriously deteriorating since that time. The property consists of 5 acres that could possibly be subdivided into more than one lot which might be the motivation to allow it to deteriorate. The Commission has discussed this in the past with the Police, Board of Health, Building Department and Fire Department and current bylaws do not allow any of those departments or NHC to address lack of maintenance to any extent. Judy had pictures that showed that windows are open and suspects that someone may be going inside. She has notified the police. Janet explained the work that has been done to draft a bylaw that would address serious deterioration in the structure of vacant historic homes and passed out the current draft. This cannot be brought to a Town meeting until spring 2020. Becky Freed felt that the bylaw should address less serious maintenance deficiencies not just serious structural problems. Jim Kelliher suggested that if we want to sponsor a bylaw that we should form a subcommittee to work on it. Bob Norris will contact Christopher Skelly to see if he would schedule a workshop on demolition by neglect in our Region since one has been given in Western Mass. Noel suggested that the issue be discussed further at our next meeting after everyone has a chance to read the draft bylaw.

SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE

Noel reported that the Town is going through a process to place a value on the house so it can be sold to a private party. Alan reported that there is still interest by the First Parish Church in relocating the house for use as a residence for the minister.

JACOBS FARM HOUSE

The contract for lead abatement has been written and sent to the Ray Services which was the successful bidder. Mass Historical Society has approved the chimney work and that can be completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 7, 2019 at 7:00PM.