

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, February 3, 2020

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

ABSENT: Nancy McBride

ALSO PRESENT: Ted Nichols

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 January.

David was not present at the January meeting and asked to discuss the process for demolition, specifically whether applicants should be required to pay for expenses. Janet explained that required expenses are not very substantial and consist mostly of mailing expenses (registered letter to applicant and letters to abutters) since we no longer publish in the newspaper. Bob Norris suggested that the Commission consider hiring a consultant to assess historical significance however members generally thought that we were able to do this adequately on our own. Jim raised concerns about time frames for determinations and lack of clarity about the process. A subcommittee will be formed consisting of Jim and David who will review the current process and report back at the next meeting with any recommendations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer David DeGhetto presented the following bills:

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

Verizon	\$49.84	telephone
National Grid	\$59.09	electricity
Albert Culver	\$194.00	service furnace
Blackthorne Plumbing and Heating	\$981.00	repair broken pipe
Total	\$1103.93	

Account #15-194-8015-6714 (Stetson Ford House)

Albert Culver	\$194.00	service furnace
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Account #01-691-0201-5780 (General)

Janet Watson	\$23.55	reimbursement for mailing expenses
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Account #15-194-8069-6726 (JFH Restoration)

Michael Dun	\$6800	painting sashes
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533 GROVE ST.

The Commission got an inquiry from James Laliberte who is considering buying this house and wanted to know if the Commission would object to his plan to add a dormer to the second floor in the rear. Mr. Laliberte was notified very late that this would be on the agenda and didn't

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attend the meeting. Noel agreed to call him to discuss the project which seems something that would be approved if it turns out to be as described.

CPC APPLICATION, SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Special Town meeting will be held Monday, February 10 and the Historical Commission has requested approval of an article to transfer available funds from the CPC Fund for the work on the Jacobs Farmhouse. This is necessary because bids cannot be issued unless the funds are available. Noel and Bob will attend the moderator's meeting and Noel will do a presentation at the Special Town meeting. Ted will provide current estimates for the work.

David is going to look into applying for MHC matching grant for this project. The deadline is March 20.

FORM B's

Wendy Bawabe asked for a discussion of Form B's but was unable to attend. Janet presented the information. Wendy has been completing Form B's for historic houses that were inadvertently left out of the original survey. She would like the Commission to take over this task. Commission members Janet Watson, Anne Greene and Alan Prouty expressed interest in learning how to do it. Noel mentioned that MHC might have workshops. Bob suggested that we might want to hire someone to do it and pay with CPC funds. Janet will check into training and discuss with Wendy.

HISTORIC HOUSE REVOLVING FUND

This idea has not been pursued and it is probably too late to do anything for this year. The Commission will continue to look into the idea.

DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT

The Commission has been discussing for some time the possibility of a bylaw to address vacant houses that have been allowed to deteriorate. Current status is that David DeGhetto is trying to set up meetings with the building and fire departments to see if measures could be addressed for all vacant properties rather than just historical homes. Specifically David thinks that all vacant houses should be required to have alarm systems in case of fire.

SARGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE

David reported that Beau Dyer who successfully bid for the house is currently dismantling it with the intention to find a place to rebuild it. David reported that Mr. Dyer is not preserving the house as well as hoped and is undoing a lot of the sill work done by Michael Burrey. Commission members feel it is out of our hands at this point.

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STETSON FORD HOUSE

David reported that tree work is going to be required that will cost approximately \$4000.

CUSHING TOMB

David is looking into restoration of the Cushing Tomb dated 1824 on Old Oaken Bucket Rd. At one point the Historical Society was exploring this and got an estimate of \$20,000 to remove large trees. David consulted with Rob Visser, Gibraltar Stoneworks, who recommended leaving the trees and cleaning up the granite as well as seeing if information can be found about missing plaque on the front so that could be replaced. This would probably cost less than prior \$20,000 estimate. Ownership of the tomb is not clarified and David has been working with a person who does title searches. So far her services have been free.

GRANGE HALL

David reported that a group of Norwell citizens is working on a plan to restore the Grange which will remain under the ownership of the Grange but be used for public meetings. The group will do fundraising and may apply for CPC grants.

JACOBS FARMHOUSE

Ted reported that work on the Jacobs Farmhouse continues to move forward and Bob Galvin, Town Counsel is working on a lease in anticipation of the house being rented.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim has volunteered to help the North River Theater on River St. with an addition. He would like to present the information at our next meeting so the Commission is aware of the plans which would require removing a wall in a fairly recent addition. The building is owned by a non-profit group and does not pay taxes. It was a former schoolhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

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