

MINUTES: Norwell Historical Commission, Monday, March 2, 2020

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ted Nichols, Tom Souza

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer David DeGhetto presented the following bills:

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

Verizon	\$55.47	telephone
National Grid	\$57.34	electricity
Albert Culver	\$439.28	service furnace
Flight Alarm	\$696.00	burglar & fire alarm
Total	\$1239.09	

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NORTH RIVER COMMUNITY THEATER

Jim Kelliher recused himself because he is working on this project. Tom Souza presented plans for an addition to the North River Community Theater. The theater is an old school building dating from 1855. The Church Hill Improvement Association bought it in 1926 and converted it to a theater. NRCT wants to add a ramp, accessible bathroom on the first floor and a small addition. Commission members reviewed the plans and had no problem with the proposal that maintains the historical elements of the building. A motion to approve the project was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

DEMOLITION DELAY BYLAW

Jim and David reported on their meeting about the bylaw. The concerns they identified are

1. Commission only has 30 days from the time of application to make a determination of historical significance. Commission members would like to better assess the property before making a determination by a site visit. David suggested that we use funds for an architectural consultant to make the determination.
2. Applicants need more detailed instructions about what they are required to present to the Commission. Jim noted that the bylaw requires the following : a map, photographs, description of the property, reason for the request to demolish, economic data and a description of reuse.

use as a florist shop. Janet suggested that we get more information and consider this proposal since the West Barn gets very little use and any rent could be used for maintenance.

CUSHING TOMB

David reported that he, Janet and Alan met with a title researcher who donated her time to research ownership of this property. The tomb is mentioned in a deed of Laura Jenkins and as it turns out her heirs have been somewhat easy to identify and contact. Janet is going to send for the wills of the one remaining heir for whom we don't have information. David would like to engage the services of a lawyer to establish title. Bob Norris said that it was not lack of information about ownership that prevented the CPC from getting involved but instead was the high cost of the proposed restoration work. Bob felt that hiring a lawyer was unnecessary and could turn out to be very expensive. David has gotten an estimate from Rob Visser, Gibraltar Stoneworks to repair the tomb that is more reasonable than the last estimate which involved removing large trees. Janet will try to obtain wills to clarify ownership because it seems that this might be easier than it appears given what we know about the descendants and lines of inheritance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

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