



TOWN OF NORWELL
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
(781) 659-8000

Norwell Historical Commission Meeting Minutes December 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy McBride at 5:36 PM. Present were members James Kelliher, David DeGhetto, Rachel Wollam, and Lily Cleveland. Anne Greene, Alan Prouty, and Laurie Detwiler were unable to attend. Also in attendance was Facilities Director Ted Nichols. The meeting was held in the Local History room of the Norwell Library.

AGENDA

Ms. McBride changed the next meeting date to January 9th at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Ms. Detwiler to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Kelliher and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 7 meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Kelliher to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting as submitted. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS

The following invoices were presented for approval:

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description	D a t e o f Invoice:	Amount:	Account Number:
1. Verizon	Communication Service to Jacobs Farmhouse - October 7 to November 6, 2022	November 6, 2022	\$44.18	81-000-7065-5780
2. National Grid	Electric Service to Jacobs Farmhouse - October 5, 2022 to November 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	\$25.56	81-000-7065-5780
3. Albert Culver Company	Fuel Oil for Jacobs Farmhouse	October 26, 2022	\$588.26	81-000-7065-5780d9
4. Christopher Sullivan	Norwell Historical Commission minutes, October 3, 2022; 4 hours @ \$25.00 / hour	November 28, 2022	\$100.00	01-691-0201-5780
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$758.00	

Name of Vendor:	Date of Invoice:	Item / Activity Description:	Amount:	Account Number:
1. Larochelle Construction, Inc.	November 23, 2022	Jacobs Farmhouse Article 8 - Renovations	\$59,210.55	15-194-8099-6797
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$59,210.55	

Mr. Nicholas advised that the Larochelle invoice was for roofing work; he and the project architect approved the work order. Also approved was a \$28.00 invoice for shutter parts. Ms. McBride will leave the vouchers at Town Hall for the necessary Commissioner signatures.

Motion by Mr. Kelliher to approve the invoices as submitted. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

Rental Apartment CPC Application

CPC wants the Commission to formally vote to approve the CPC application requesting funds to renovate the Jacobs farmhouse apartment. Mr. Nichols noted that this was done at the previous meeting; Ms. McBride will advise administrator Kristin Ford.

Stetson Ford House Update

There has been no word from Town Administration about a proposed rent increase for the property.

Demolition Delay Bylaw Updates

Mr. Kelliher read through Ms. Detwiler's draft updates, noting that the state template upon which it was based seemed similar to what was in the current bylaw, but with clearer language. He thought the template's definition of "partial demolition" still had some ambiguity. Most projects, except for building from scratch, involve a certain degree of "demolition," and Mr. Kelliher would like to make the definition more specific to ensure the Commission gets to look at all the appropriate projects. An ongoing issue is Building not referring "things that we might consider demolition" to the Commission for review, and a stronger definition may serve as guidance to the Building Inspector.

Mr. Kelliher strongly objected to provisions calling for an 18 month delay period and changing the scope of review to properties built up to 1934, noting there were few to no historically/ architecturally significant properties in Town built after 1900. Attempts to increase the bylaw's reach may intensify opposition to it.

Ms. McBride suggested the 18 month provision may have been put in as a negotiating gambit but she did not personally support it. She agreed there were few 20th Century properties that were historically significant but suggested the Commission think about what, if any, kinds of modern properties it might want to review.

Mr. Kelliher thinks one or two Commissioners should decide on the historical significance of referred properties within two weeks. Mr. DeGhetto suggested the Commission should review certain projects as a first step, before they go to Building; this is done in Weston.

Ms. McBride noted that Ms. Detwiler will incorporate Commissioner feedback into her draft, and the draft will be reviewed further at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Cushing Tomb

CPC administrator Kristin Ford has requested a dated quote from Gibraltar Stonecraft, and a quote from a new provider for the tree removal. Mr. DeGhetto will be requesting a quote from Trees & Grounds; he will be able to schedule the work once the two quotes are submitted.

Form B Updates

Ms. Cleveland obtained a list from Janet Watson, Norwell Historical Society, of properties that are candidates for additional Form Bs. She has left several messages with consultant Stacy Spies about completing the forms but received no response. She will circle back with Ms. Watson for other individuals who may be able to do the work.

James Library Award Presentation

Mr. Kelliher checked in with Executive Director Megan Ward about writing a script for the award presentation; she has not had the time to do so. Ms. McBride suggested that Wendy Bawabe of the Norwell Historical Society or another member of the James Board undertake the task.

MA Historical Commission Grant

The Commissioners authorized Mr. Nichols to work with Ms. Bawabe on an application for a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of Jacobs Farm

All present further discussed the formation of an independent organization dedicated to the Jacobs property, similar to the Winslow House Association in Marshfield and the Duxbury Rural/Historical Society. Such organizations are able to raise private funds to support the property.

FY 24 Budget

The Commission voted to increase the annual budget request by \$1000, to \$5000, to cover the cost of meeting minutes and a possible Zoom subscription.

Motion by Mr. DeGhetto to increase the FY 24 budget request to \$5000. Seconded by Mr. Kelliher and unanimously voted.

NEXT MEETING

January 9, 2022 – Norwell Town Library, 5:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DeGhetto to adjourn at 7:17 PM. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the Norwell Historical Commission on _____.

Nancy McBride, Chair