

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES (DRAFT) – MAY 20TH, 2010
Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main Street, Norwich

Attending: Bill Aldrich, Roger Blake, Peter Brink, Phil Dechert (5:15pm), Nancy Hoggson

Absent: Anne Silberfarb

1. The newly appointed Historic Preservation Commission met for the first time at the Norwich Historical Society @ 4:00pm.
2. Elections were held: Nancy Hoggson-Chair, Bill Aldrich-Vice Chair, Roger Blake-Clerk. The decision was made to share the minute-taking responsibilities at each meeting.
3. Each HPC/CLG is required to adopt both Bylaws and a Conflict of Interest policy. A template was sent from the Division for Historic Preservation, which Dechert had reviewed and changed for Norwich's needs. Brink recommended no reference to the National Trust and changes made from SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) to NHPC (Norwich Historic Preservation Commission) were not accurate. Everyone was in agreement about leaving SHPO where it was originally. All references to the National Trust will be removed from Norwich's Bylaws and Conflict of Interest policy.
4. Certified Local Government application needs to be filled out with requested supporting documents. Hoggson will work on this, and the documents will be submitted to SHPO for approval by the National Park Service.
5. The Commission discussed the following:
 - i) National Register Update – original work was done in 1990 chaired by Anne Silberfarb. It was recommended that HPC look into the updating process so that we know what is involved and what the costs will be. Annual CLG grants can be used for this.
 - ii) State Historic Register – Brink will follow up with SHPO to find out how this is done and whether or not it would be important for Norwich to be part of the State Historic Register.
 - iii) Designated Village Center – Norwich received this designation in 2005. However, no formal notification was ever done with property owners within the boundaries of the DVC. This designation does help towns when they are applying for municipal planning grants. Discussion followed about how to get the word out to property owners about the benefits of this program, which are primarily tax credits. Chris Cochran who manages this program for the State has offered to Norwich and conduct a workshop for property owners. HPC felt this would be worthwhile and could perhaps be incorporated into a Norwich Business Council meeting on the 1st Friday of each month. Hoggson will follow-up for fall 2010.
 - iv) Town Plan – Historic and Cultural Resources. Dechert said there was still time for changes and additions. Brink raised the importance of linking economic development to the preservation of historic resources. He volunteered to draft appropriate language for consideration.
 - v) CLG grant program – In 2009 there was \$57K available for HP projects falling within the CLG guidelines, as well as \$194K in stimulus grants from Senator Sanders office. The notice goes out to all CLG communities in November with a January deadline for grant applications. If there is money left over from the first round, a second grant deadline is in April. It was agreed that investigating all that would be involved in updating Norwich's Historic District would be a viable first project for the HPC.

- vi) New historic districts – site visits to Root District Schoolhouse and Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse. Both are in serious condition. There was a condition assessment of the Root District building done through the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Both buildings have active volunteer committees in their neighborhoods who would like to see attention paid to both buildings. Hoggson will contact Lisa Cadow (Root District) and Ray Royce (Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse) to arrange a ‘field’ trip for the HPC after June 18th.
- 6. Preservation Trust of Vermont – annual meeting June 4th at VTC – Symposium on Sustainability: Energy Efficiency, Insulation and Sustainability for Historic Buildings) was discussed, and HPC members were encouraged to attend.
- 7. Next HPC meeting will be after the June field trips.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hoggson

May 24, 2010

Follow-up

Peter Brink: town plan additions
Information about State Historic Register

Nancy Hoggson: fill out application for CLG; give to Roger Blake, Chair of Selectboard; set up site visits to Root District and Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse