

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES-- Wednesday, December 28, 2011--Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main Street, Norwich

Attending: Bill Aldrich, Roger Blake, Peter Brink, Phil Dechert, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood

Absent: Anne Silberfarb

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am, and Nancy Osgood was welcomed to the meeting as an outside observer.

1. **Minutes** of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 approved as presented.
2. **Budget** for 2011 was reviewed based on Phil's calculations. We ended this cycle with \$2,283.53 + there will be an additional \$1K, which has been included in the Planning and Zoning budget for 2012. This \$1K will not be available until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 with \$3,283 AVAILABLE FOR THE 40% match for the 2012 program will be used for the match.
3. **Preservation Trust of Vermont** had proposed that they would consider handling future condition assessments (CA) with Norwich with either NHS or HPC taking the lead. Brink and Hoggson discussed the proposal with Neil Fulton and Dechert who both felt this would work but Fulton requested a letter from PTV that would hold the town of Norwich harmless. Brink has discussed with PTV who feels that they could not agree to this since the Town would be taking the lead with future CAs vs. PTV, they could not sign on to this letter since they would have no control over the CA projects. HPC discussed the alternatives and it was agreed by all that PTV would take the lead with the CAs including the two pending CAs (The Grange and the Library), but that it would be more of a collaborative process with the HPC and NHS so that we would avoid any miscommunication about the process, which happened with the Beaver Meadow CA. NHS and HPC will be involved with selecting the architect to work with. Brink will draft a letter to PTV outlining the process going forward.
4. **Updates** were given by Brink and Hoggson on the status of the following projects: School Houses (Beaver Meadow and Root District), The Grange, Norwich Pool and Norwich Library. Beaver Meadow group has maintained the schoolhouse well over many years and now want to install water and septic so that the building will be used more frequently; The Root District volunteer leaders are working actively on getting estimates on costs, including stabilization of the foundation, survey of potential uses as a community center, and confirmation of legal status. Norwich Pool to rebuild will be covered 90% by FEMA (hopefully); community very much behind rebuilding as is and any financial shortfall might have to be covered by fundraising; nothing definite as yet but TM is on top of it all; Library needs some repairs etc. and have decided a CA is needed to help them plan; The Grange needs repairs as well; possibility of establishing a Friends of the Upper Valley Grange to encourage younger families to be a part of the organization; help with fundraising and running a capital campaign may be needed; Hoggson to discuss with NHS Board what their role could be.
5. **Publicity:** Norwich Times is willing to give space in upcoming issues for articles about historic preservation in Norwich; Brink has done an article on both schoolhouses for the winter issue; possibly Norwich Pool and The Grange in future issues. Hoggson will coordinate. Aldrich was suggested for an article about the Norwich Pool based on his recent posting on the ListServe.
6. **CLG projects for 2012:** HPC agreed on the following three projects for 2012. There is a grant deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup>. Peter will work on the narrative with Hoggson; Phil the budget. National Register listing for **Root District School House** using the MPDF, which is an accelerated process (\$2,500).  
National Register listing for **Beaver Meadow neighborhood**, which would include the school house, chapel, cemetery and some homes (\$7,000).

**Historic Preservation website:** the purpose of which would be to highlight each of the projects raising money to preserve the buildings (The Grange, Beaver Meadow, Root District) with the possibility of online giving (\$1,350). It would be maintained by NHS. Possible business and/or community sponsorships for the website.

Total of these requests: \$10,850.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Hoggson, Chair