

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES-- Wednesday, June 6, 2012--Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main Street, Norwich

Attending: Roger Blake, Peter Brink, Phil Dechert, Cheryl Herrmann, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood, Anne Silberfarb (@11:30pm), Stuart White Absent: Bill Aldrich

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am. New Commissioners, Cheryl Herrmann, Nancy Osgood, and Stuart White were welcomed.

1. **Minutes** of February 6, 2012 were approved as presented.
2. **Future minutes:** Hoggson asked if the minute-taking could be rotated among the Commission members so she does not have to do it every time. All were in agreement, and Brink and Osgood expressed willingness to begin this at the next meeting.
3. **HPC budget and available funds:** Dechert explained that there was \$1,124 left that would need to be encumbered for another project. He was going to talk to the Town Manager about what needed to be done. Possible uses for the money: i) acrylic brochure holder that could be affixed to the Lewis House with brochures available 24/7, ii) approach Dartmouth Printing to underwrite a 2nd printing of 10K and put the \$1,124 towards that. Hoggson and Brink would agree on where to spend the money.
4. **Updates:** Beaver Meadow School House: applied for a \$30K Cultural Facilities grant for improvements and accessibility; will hear after August 1st, 2012. Hoggson has been working with them. **Root School House:** Brink has been meeting with Root; they received a \$2K grant from the Women's Club and a \$250 grant from the Preservation Trust to hire Smith & Vansant to develop architectural plans and specifications sufficient for the group to obtain a reliable cost estimate for the rehabilitation of the School House for its planned use as a Montessori School for preschoolers, with a planned opening in 2014, as well as a community center during the summer months. **The Grange:** Brink and Hoggson will meet with the Grange to review their condition assessment and help them set priorities for the work that needs to be done. Fundraising has to be done under their own 501.c.3 and not under the State Grange. **Norwich Pool:** Dechert reported on the status of the pool. The town will get FEMA \$\$ and will be able to restore the pool to today's standards. DuBois & King has been selected as the engineers, but the Pool will not be open for summer 2012. **Norwich Public Library:** had Smith & Vansant do a condition assessment with a PTV grant, and there is a lot of work to be done, along with tightening up the building envelope. **Norwich Congregational Church steeple** with a PTV grant had a condition assessment done of the steeple to determine how serious the leaks are and how much damage has been done. It will be an expensive project, and the Church is still deciding whether or not to launch a fundraising effort or use endowment funds for the repair. **Bread/pizza oven in Barrett Park:** Brink working with Rob Gurwitt and Dan Haedrich was instrumental in bringing a craftsman from Quebec skilled in making and repairing these ovens to Norwich for two days to do the work. It was very successful, and the oven is now in working order and already being used for bread making during the week.
5. **Historic Marker:** Thanks to Nancy Osgood for her initial work on the marker; more work still to be done; Brink and Hoggson have been communicating with John Dumville at the Division about the number of words. It is hoped to have this project finished shortly.
6. **Consultant proposals** received for the 2012 grants (National Register nominations for Beaver Meadow neighborhood, Root School House and website enhancement with a focus on historic preservation) were reviewed. Lyssa Papazian from Putney was selected for the National Register work based on her experience and considerable expertise working on these nominations. Dave Morin was selected for the website enhancement because of the good work he has already done for the Historical Society. Dechert will let the two consultants selected know, and it was agreed that a

meeting with Papazian would be scheduled for Monday, July 9th. The website work will be done in August/September.

- 7. Volunteer forms:** Dechert passed out the volunteer forms stressing the importance of everyone keeping track of their hours working on the 2012 projects. HPC meetings can count towards the match, as well as any work that anyone does on any of the three projects.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoggson

7/10/12