

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 16, 2013 @ 4pm - Norwich Historical Society

MINUTES, JANUARY 16, 2013

Attending– Bill Aldrich, Peter Brink, Cheryl Herrmann, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood, Stuart White; Planning Commission Liaison – Anne Silberfarb; CLG Coordinator – Phil Dechert; *absent*: Roger Blake; *guests*: Judy Brown

Nancy Hoggson, chair, called the meeting to order @ 4:07 PM.

4—4:50 PM

Greg Sharrow Co-Director and Director of Education, Vermont Folklife Center, Middlebury was scheduled to attend this meeting to discuss possible CLG Projects in 2013 for Norwich. Greg Sharrow was NOT able to attend this meeting due to weather conditions.

ACTION: reschedule Greg before Feb. 17th to talk about Oral History projects in communities and a possible CLG project 2013 for Norwich.

- Historic Barn Survey in Norwich: Deb Van Arman worked briefly but unsuccessfully with UVM graduate students hired by the VT Division for Historic Preservation to work on the barn census project in Norwich. Josh Phillips is the barn contact at the Division. Peter B. distributed a copy of the Division's historic barn survey from the Division's website showing a number of historic barns already listed in Norwich.
- Phil passed out the list from the Division listing priority projects for FY13.
- Peter asked how a new HPC project could add value to the Town: ideas Peter and others suggested are: history of farms as well as current farming practices (use of immigrant labor, Norwich Farmer's Market); Lewiston; historic structures; 1920's bungalows on Cliff Street, which might be part of updating Historic Register listing for Norwich, completed in 1991; investigating historic neighborhoods and structures outside of historic district designation; Frank Lloyd Wright- influenced houses on Hopson Road; Barrett House on Beaver Meadow. We would need a paid Historic Preservation consultant like Lyssa Papazian to do the research and updating; redoing the entire District would be very expensive. Lyssa Papazian (historic preservation consultant) advised HPC that Norwich National Register is still relevant and would not need to be updated for at least another 10 years;

ACTION:

- Peter will call Josh Phillips at the Barn Program of the Historic Preservation Division. Nancy will re-schedule Greg Sharrow.
- Nancy H. hoped others would help with research once the topic has been selected. We need a 40% match through volunteer work to qualify for a grant. There is \$1,000 in Planning and Zoning budget for committee's work again this year.
- Meetings will work for most of the Commission on Wednesdays around 4 PM. End of March/beginning of April is the deadline for submitting to CLG for a grant for the next project.

5pm

1. Approval of July 9th, 2012 minutes

Nancy

In the future, we will send draft minutes to the members for comments and corrections immediately after the meeting before draft goes to Nancy Kramer. Corrections of July 9th minutes were made ("Papazian" for "Papasian"). Nancy H. will make the changes and send the July minutes to Nancy Kramer for the Town website. January minutes will be sent to all commission members before 'draft' goes to Nancy within 5 working days as per VT's Open Meeting Law. Minutes are not posted until 'final' is approved by HPC.

2. Budget – 2012 - Schoolhouse Projects

Phil

CLG Grant Budget Summary as of 1/16/2013:

- Cash and In-kind services together make up the total cost of projects: additional cash match will be needed for each project:
 - Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse Project: need \$671.29
 - Root District Schoolhouse Project: need \$229.00
 - Website Project: need \$128.00

There is \$1000 in the HPC Budget to cover all of the above.

The remaining \$28 will be covered by a donation, if needed.

3. Status of CLG 2012 projects

Beaver Meadow neighborhood: \$22,500 Grant from VT Art Council, which has to be matched 1:1. Two grant deadlines (Mascoma Savings Bank and Byrne Foundation) April 1 and Norwich Women's Club May 1; need to get to work on this right away. Annual fundraiser of cocoa mulch sale begins in April, usually nets \$1000 for Beaver Meadow ongoing maintenance projects.

Root School House: \$2000 donated by Norwich Women's Club and \$250 by Preservation Trust of Vermont for architectural work and cost estimates; Smith and Vasant will do architectural conceptual designs for the Root School House

rehab for (i) Montessori School and (ii) community meeting place, and get cost estimates; must have an asbestos inspection/estimate of asbestos abatement and confirm property boundaries for S & V to do work.

- The two schoolhouses will be on the cover of the Town Annual Report thanks to Jean Lawe, including highlighting their National Register nominations and the work of this Commission to accomplish this.
- Website Enhancement: Waiting to see if additional funds will be available to transfer from the reduced cost of the Beaver Meadow project before contacting Dave Morin, website developer.
- Conservation/restoration of town public records. Nancy H. reported on her memo to the SB and Bonnie about the importance of this project and that a comprehensive plan needs to be in place before any work.

News:

1. A grant award of \$20K has been awarded to Norwich Congregational Church for steeple restoration from the Division for Historic Preservation. It was suggested that pictures be taken before, during and after the work is done this spring or summer.
2. A Historic Marker commemorating Norwich's designation on the National Register of Historic Places is being fabricated and will be installed on the front lawn of the Lewis House. Phil will work on a permit, if necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Silberfarb