

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Meeting was held by Zoom platform due to COVID-19Join Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Deb Brien, Bill Aldrich (Note below), Jess Phelps, Anne Silberfarb, Folger Tuggle, Phil Zea, and Nancy Osgood, chair

Members Absent: None

Note: Bill Aldrich was present at the beginning of the meeting but soon had technical difficulties with Zoom and dropped off

Also, present:

- Rod Francis, Norwich Planning and Zoning Director and Certified Local Government Coordinator
- Lyssa Papazian, historic preservation consultant
- Chad Finer, photographer

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 4:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81574822406>

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 815 7482 2406

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1. **Approve Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Anne Silberfarb. It was seconded by Deb Brien. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0 with one abstention. Folger Tuggle will be serving as Secretary for the purposes of taking minutes for this meeting.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment as no members of the public attended this NHPC Meeting.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of the September 16th meeting

After the correction of a typographical error Deb Brien moved to approve the draft minutes as circulated. Phil Zea seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously 5-0 (with 1 abstention).

4. Research and volunteer organization, Norwich Barn Survey – Lyssa Papazian, Chad Finer

The majority of the meeting time was used to discuss the Norwich Barn Survey. Lyssa Papazian led this discussion with participation by the entire Commission, Rod Francis and Chad Finer.

This discussion included the following:

- Lyssa began the discussion with work completed to date.
 - A list has been compiled of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Barns
 - 70 Tier 1 and 30 Tier 2 Barns have been identified
 - Tier 1 Barns will all be visited; Tier 2, if time permits
 - Additionally, the appropriate barns from the Norwich barns identified in the 2009 Vermont Barn Census along with barns on properties that have received National Register recognition (Meeting House Farm, Maple Hill Farm and those in the Brigham Hill and Goodrich Four Corners Historic Districts) will be captured.
- Lyssa will distribute the Tier1/Tier 2 list to the NHPC members in a PDF for review and comments.
- Lyssa will follow up with Devin at the State to understand what survey form should be utilized.
- Lyssa discussed the Norwich Historical Archives and potentially using volunteer hours to review the old lister cards which include photographs from the 40's, 50's and 60's. Both Bill and Nancy were mentioned as having familiarity with the NHS archives.
- Chad's participation will include extensive photography of a small subset of barns surveyed to be potentially used for a display/presentation by the NHPC or NHS.
- Deb Brien had a question about accessory agricultural structures and whether they would be included in the survey. Lyssa commented that where a "farmstead" exists with multiple barns and accessory structures that they would be identified. But to try to identify all of them more specifically would be challenging and beyond the scope of this survey.
- Deb Brien questioned whether time would permit for any barns not extant for inclusion in the survey. Lyssa mentioned that this could be a role for volunteer efforts to identify these barns through historic photographs.
- To this point, Chad Finer mentioned both interior and exterior photographs that he had of Fred Ladd's barn which had been moved to Massachusetts.

- A broad discussion took place related to how best to identify and divide tasks that volunteers can be working on. This led to a discussion of the Open Meeting Law and Norwich’s current interpretation of it. It was decided that the best path forward would be to warn all meetings and have a member take minutes.
- Anne Silberfarb asked if the challenges faced related to the open meeting law would be the same or different if the NHS were the sponsoring entity of the barn survey. Rod commented that they might not be as rigorous, but the current contract as executed was with the NHPC.

5. Review Draft Press Release about Barn Survey

Nancy reviewed the “Draft Press Release” and asked for comments. Lyssa suggested that “land records” be changed to “public records”. This change was made. Additional discussion focused on whether any notice should be provided specific to Norwich barn owners who may be contacted related to the Barn Survey. The consensus was that this Press Release would be issued as amended, and it would be followed at some point with a more specific communication on the Norwich Listserv related to amongst other things, contact with property owners. Deb Brien will draft this.

6. Discuss and determine future project for CLG 2021 grant application

Nancy reviewed several potential projects and that the deadline for submission is December 7. Projects discussed included: 1) Jones Circle, National Homes Houses; 2) Lewiston; 3) Union Village; and 4) “Farming in Norwich”, building upon the successful podcasts created by Sarah Rooker (NHS) this summer with companion booklets by Emily Zea. After a brief discussion, Deb Brien moved & Phil Zea seconded the motion “That the NHPC pursue a CLG 2021 Grant highlighting in detail the farming practices in Norwich.” The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. It was also the consensus of the NHPC that a Union Village CLG grant request may be appropriate in the future giving the Commission adequate time to work through the complexities of working on a project which involves two towns (Norwich and Thetford).

7. Review Commission’s responsibilities under the current Town Plan

Nancy mentioned that she had distributed an email related to this topic.

8. Open Meeting Law meeting via Zoom, Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30 – discuss questions to raise and determine who would like to attend

Phil, Jess and Nancy plan to attend this meeting. Please send any questions you would like to have answered to Nancy by November 4th. She will forward them to Herb Durfee who will in turn, give them to the legal team.

9. Discuss how best to choose time for future meetings

After a brief discussion, it was concluded that Rod would oversee the distribution of Doodle Polls to select meeting dates/times for the NHPC.

10. Other business

No other business.

11. Adjourn

Deb Brien made a motion to adjourn at 5:30, seconded by Anne Silberfarb. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED 11-18-20