

APPROVED 6-28-21

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Monday, April 5, 2021; 4:00pm

Meeting was held by Zoom platform due to COVID-19

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

Also, present:

- Rod Francis, Norwich Planning and Zoning Director and Certified Local Government Coordinator (Rod was only present at the beginning of the meeting).
- Lyssa Papazian, historic preservation consultant (Lyssa dropped off after her agenda item was completed.)
- Sarah Rooker, Director, Norwich Historical Society

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Act 92 OML compliant Zoom meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880767888> Meeting ID: 818 8076 7888

One tap mobile + 888 475 4499 US Toll-free mmL

1. Approve agenda

Phil moved to approve the Agenda and Jess seconded. The Agenda was approved unanimously (5-0).

2. Public Comment

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

3. Review and approval of the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting

Folger corrected the spelling of his last name from “Tuttle” to “Tuggle” which appeared four times within the minutes.

Deb Brien moved to approve the minutes as amended; Phil Zea seconded the motion. The motion to approve the amended minutes passed unanimously (5-0).

4. Update on Norwich Barn Survey and village barns and carriage houses in particular - Lyssa Papazian

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion of the Barn Survey. This discussion was focused on two separate parts of the barn survey: (1) the intown, Norwich Village Historic District barns to be initially surveyed by NHPC members and (2) the barns outside of Town identified in the PDF “Norwich Barn Survey Selected priority barn for follow up 033121” identified by Lyssa.

Related to the intown barns, NHPC members provided brief updates as to their status in the survey process. Part of the discussion included how best to capture the information on the two-page, “Vermont Barns Census Worksheet”. Lyssa was flexible as to how these forms, once completed, could be shared with her, including electronically (it is a fillable form) or manually in paper form. She emphasized the importance of having clearly labeled photographs for each of the village barns/outbuildings.

As to priority barns for follow-up, Lyssa Papazian went over the list of barns that she intends to investigate further as identified in the PDF, “Norwich Barn Survey Selected priority barns for follow-up 033121”. Members of the Commission identified barn owners from the list who they would be willing to contact about a pending visit. Lyssa said that she would identify two dates for such visits and communicate them to the Commission members.

5. Other business

a. Update on ideas for next cycle of CLG grants

Discussion of future CLG grants focused on Union Village and the potential for a collaborative, two-town project, with neighboring town, Thetford. Phil agreed to follow-up with Devin Colman to gain a better understanding of whether projects involving more than one town are permitted under the CLG grant process, and specifically where one of the two towns is not a Certified Local Government.

b. Discussion regarding historic markers in National Register designated areas

The Commission members had a brief discussion about historic markers prompted by a historic marker which will be placed at the Root District Schoolhouse. Members decided to table the discussion, think about it further, and include this topic again on a future meeting agenda.

c. Article on mid-century modern architecture in Norwich – Sarah Rooker

Devin Coleman approached the NHS, NHPC, Lyssa Papazian, and Brian Knight about writing an article on mid-century modern architecture in Norwich to be published as an e-newsletter on the DOCOMOMO-US website in September. Sarah is taking the lead on this and will be giving a talk on the same topic on April 26 for Historic Windsor.

d. NHS podcast tour – Sarah Rooker

Sarah discussed the NHS “Feast and Farm” fundraiser which will include a podcast tour of both working farms and hill farms in Norwich. This is scheduled for June 20th and is created similar to previously sponsored NHS “House and Garden Tours”.

Sarah also briefly mentioned several other planned or pending projects including a June 29th workshop on how to make a podcast. Devin Coleman announced this workshop by sending emails to the chairs of other CLG towns. This came about due to the success of recent NHS podcasts and inquiries by other organizations as to how they might do the same. Sarah, Wendy Thompson and Emily Zea will lead the discussion.

Another project that was discussed included the development of a pamphlet for new Norwich residents which would welcome them to the Town and highlight Norwich’s history and the importance of its historic structures.

6. Adjourn

Phil Zea moved to adjourn the meeting.

Jess Phelps seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 5:21.

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