

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday December 9, 2021, 9:00am Meeting

The meeting was held at the Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main St, Norwich, VT

Commissioners Present: Maggie Boone, Deborah Brien, Linda Cook, Nancy Osgood, Chair, Jess Phelps, Phil Zea, Vice Chair

Not Present: Anne Silberfarb

Also present: Sarah Rooker, Director, Norwich Historical Society

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Nancy Osgood

1. Approve Agenda

Linda Cook moved to approve the agenda, and Jess Phelps seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

2. Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

3. Review and approval of the minutes of the October 21, 2021, meeting

Linda Cook moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2021, meeting, and Maggie Boone seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

4. Discussion concerning ideas for an improved NHPC website under the umbrella of the Norwich Historical Society

Members discussed the new website format, to again be hosted on the Norwich Historical Society website. Sarah Rooker offered to continue to build the site with copy and content provided by commission members. New copy and content were discussed as well as the possibility of creating subpages. Because of time constraints it was decided that the focus of the work on the site at this time will be limited to updating it to reflect the mission of the NHPC more accurately and to provide links to historic preservation resources and the projects the NHPC has undertaken. Phil identified the relevance of a recent Historic New England article to our work, and it was agreed that we would like to include a link to it on the website. Jess will seek permission from the publication to do so.

5. Discussion of possible programs highlighting the Historic Barn Survey

The Commission decided to sponsor two programs in the spring of 2022 to highlight the Barn Survey. Nancy will get in touch with Lyssa Papazian, who conducted the survey, to give a talk via Zoom emphasizing the history and architecture of the historic barns in Norwich.

Members of the commission agreed that a practical education program to follow up on the barn survey would be the second project undertaken in 2022. The Commission decided to host a panel discussion, probably via Zoom, focusing on the “how to” of barn preservation and restoration. Nancy and Jess have reached out to the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. A representative from each plus several Norwich barn owners who have had experience with barn restoration will be part of the panel discussion.

6. Other business

Sarah mentioned that the town is looking for images to include in the upcoming Town Report. She suggested the possibility of providing a barn photo to bring attention to the barn survey and the commission’s efforts towards barn preservation in Norwich. Nancy will follow up.

Nancy and Sarah will be meeting with Martha Howard at the Thetford Historical Society to discuss our joining together to offer a walking tour of Union Village this coming summer or fall.

Aware of some of the vulnerable buildings in town, we discussed how as a community we might address this issue. This we will explore further at our next meeting.

Also, to be explored further are ways in which the Commission could raise funds from which to draw for programs pertinent to historic preservation and restoration.

Cassie Horner at “Here in Hanover” magazine will be writing an article about the Historic Barn Survey for the Spring issue. Nancy will follow up with her and will ask her to insert in her article the dates of the two programs we’ll offer in 2022.

7. Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on January 27, 2022, at 9am at the Norwich Historical Society.

8. Adjourn

Linda Cook moved and Phil seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (6-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 10:28am.