

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Thursday, October 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Meeting

Meeting was at the Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main Street.

Commissioners Present: Maggie Boone, Linda Cook (arrived at 9:05), Jess Phelps, Phil Zea and Nancy Osgood, chair

Commissioners Absent: None

Also present: Brian Loeb (Planning Commission) and Aaron DeNamur (Zoning Administrator)

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

1. Approve Agenda

Maggie Boone moved to approve the agenda and Phil Zea seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously (4-0).

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the September 19, 2022 Meeting

Phil Zea moved to approve the minutes as drafted; Maggie Boone seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed (4-0).

4. Update on Activities Since the September 19th Meeting

a. Reception at Cathy Girard's Home/Jones Circle National Register Nomination

On September 25th, Nancy Osgood, Linda Cook and Maggie Boone (with the greatly appreciated assistance of Cathy Girard and Peter Brink) met Jones Circle homeowners to discuss the potential CLG grant project to fund the nomination of Jones Circle to the National Register, and they updated the group.

b. Discuss Next Steps with Planning Commission

The conversation about the Jones Circle project led to a discussion about next steps with regard to improving the NHPC's role in the planning/zoning process. Brian Loeb, attending for the Planning Commission, indicated that the NHPC could submit potential language for a consultation role, for the Planning Commission's review. Jess Phelps will work on this for the next NHPC meeting.

c. Determine CLG grant project

Phil Zea moved that the Town on behalf of the NHPC submit an application for a 2023 CLG grant to nominate the houses on Jones Circle to the National Register. Maggie seconded. The motion passed (5-0). The group discussed the next steps on the CLG grant project. Jess Phelps and Phil Zea will take the lead on drafting, while Nancy Osgood and Maggie Boone will continue to research the National Homes Corporation and the Jones Circle development to build on the application (which is due on December 12th).

d. Barn Survey progress

Various commissioners continue to explore barns identified for additional attention and Linda Cook has been reaching out to owners. This work will continue over the fall.

e. Historic New England program on maintaining historic houses

The NHPC, with NHS's assistance, will offer an online lecture, called *Old House Doss and Don'ts* virtually on Thursday, November 10th at 6:30 – featuring a member of Historic New England's historic preservation team. Jess Phelps will introduce the speaker and coordinate with Sarah Rooker on the event.

5. Other Business

Phil Zea moved to adopt the following commendation: Maggie Boone seconded the motion (which passed 5-0):

The Norwich Historic Preservation Commission (“NHPC”) commends Tammy Heesakker and Gregory Russo for their recent receipt of the 2022 Award of Excellence (Residential) from Docomomo US, the non-profit organization designed to advocate for the preservation of buildings of the modern movement, for their restoration of the Walter and Sylvia Stockmayer House (1961). One of three residential properties to win such recognition nationally, their restoration serves as an outstanding example of a sensitive restoration of a historic home. As one of the jurors noted, “It manages to be contemporary where needed while not falling into trendy midcentury modern redesign pitfalls – it still feels like a 1960’s house.” The NHPC extends its congratulations to the owners for this important national recognition and its gratitude for their work in preserving this significant mid-century modern Norwich property.

Nancy will write to the owners to share our appreciation for their work.

The NHPC elected to postpone discussion about additional programming, articles until after the CLG grant has been submitted.

Sarah Rooker has made some changes to the website (mostly updating old links). Nancy Osgood will post to the Norwich list-serv to remind the public of the resources offered on the NHPC page on the NHS website.

The NHPC continues to have two (2) vacancies to fill to have a complete NHPC roster.

6. Next Meeting

The group selected **Thursday, November 17th at 9:00 a.m.** as its next meeting date/time at the Norwich Historical Society.

7. Adjourn

Linda Cook moved to adjourn the meeting.

Maggie Boone seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously (5-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.