

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
277 MAIN STREET
MINUTES, JULY 9, 2012**

Attending: Bill Aldrich, Roger Blake, Peter Brink, Cheryl Herrmann, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood, Anne Silberfarb, Phil Dechert

Absent: Stuart White

Guests: National Register consultant, Lyssa Papasian, Root School House representative Brian Cook, Beaver Meadow Neighborhood and School House representative, Peter Stanzel

Nancy Hoggson, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05

1. **Introductions:** Nancy Hoggson introduced Lyssa Papasian, a historic preservation consultant from Putney, who has been retained to prepare the National Register of Historic Places nominations for the Beaver Meadow Historic District and Root District Schoolhouse
 2. **June 6, 2012 minutes:** The minutes of the June 6th meeting were unanimously approved as amended. Nancy Osgood volunteered to take the minutes, with the understanding that this responsibility would rotate through the Commission each meeting.
 3. **Walking Tour Brochure update:** Dartmouth Printing is generously underwriting the second printing of the walking tour (as they did the first printing), and the 2011 balance of \$1,124 will be put towards the reprinting. The new brochures will be delivered in early August to NHS.
 4. **National Register Projects (Nomination of the Beaver Meadow Historic District and the Root District Schoolhouse to the National Register of Historic Places)** Lyssa Papasian affirmed that by August 15, 2012, she will have written and submitted to the HPC and other appropriate people the first draft for the nomination of the Beaver Meadow Historic District and the first draft for the nomination of the Root District Schoolhouse to the National Register of Historic Places. HPC Commissioners are urged to make comments, which will be collated by the HPC and then forwarded to Lyssa. First draft comments for each project are due by August 29th. Second and third drafts will be circulated, each within two weeks of comments having been received by Lyssa. The final drafts for the two projects will be submitted by October 20, 2012. The two nomination projects will be completed by November 1, 2012. Nancy Hoggson will make sure that Lyssa has the appropriate email and mailing addresses so that the reports can be circulated. Email will be the primary method of circulation.
- We decided that the best time to hold informational meetings about the proposed nominations and significance of being on the National Register would be in September. It was recommended that a meeting about each project will be held in the evening on the same day in Tracy Hall. Lyssa will do a brief power point presentation on each nomination. Efforts will be made to reach all residents in Beaver Meadow and those in the Root District and the general public by various means including the Norwich List Serve, Town email list, and Root District School email list. The Division for Historic Preservation may send a representative to the public meetings, but it will be up to the HPC to issue the invitation. Anne Silberfarb spoke of the 2001 architectural/historical Beaver Meadow Valley Quest that is available on the Vital Communities website. She and Peter Stanzel will discuss how to disseminate that information to Beaver Meadow residents in particular to raise their awareness of the history in Beaver Meadow.
 - In October the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation will send all Beaver Meadow property owners whose property is in the proposed historic district a letter informing them of the proposed nomination. If 51% of the recipients indicate that they disapprove of the project, the nomination will be withdrawn. A 'no reply' is viewed as consent. Lyssa will obtain from the

Division a copy of the letter so that the HPC can see it before the community informational meetings. Phil Dechert will pull the Beaver Meadow mailing addresses from the Grand List.

- The Root District Schoolhouse nomination will be a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) as a single building.
5. **Updates: Beaver Meadow School House:** Peter Stanzel reported that they will learn Aug. 1 if they received a Cultural Facilities matching grant for \$30,000 for infrastructure improvements to the school house.

Root District School House: Brian Cook reported that the school house received a \$2,000 grant from the Norwich Women's Club and a \$250 grant from the Preservation Trust of Vermont. This has enabled them to retain Smith & Vansant who will draw up architectural plans and rehabilitation specifications so that costs can be determined for the necessary foundation work (step 1) and the rehabilitation of the building for a planned Montesorri school (step 2). The school most likely would use the building for 9 months of the year and the community the other three. Smith & Vansant have generously waived \$500 in fees. Brian asked that the minutes reflect his gratitude to Peter Brink for being so incredibly helpful. Peter replied modestly that he was just riding shotgun.

The Grange: Nancy Hoggson reported that she and Peter Brink will be meeting with some of the Grange members in August.

Norwich Pool: Phil Dechert said that there would be a public meeting regarding the next steps for the Norwich Pool in August. FEMA has approved the project in principle.

Norwich Public Library: Acting on information received at the breakfast organized by the HPC and hosted by the Norwich Inn about the advantages for commercial properties of Norwich being a Certified Local Government, the NPL, with a matching grant from Preservation Trust of VT, hired Smith & Vansant to do a condition assessment report. The NPL is now considering the work that needs to be done, the lack of insulation in parts of the building being an area of concern.

Norwich Congregational Church Steeple: The Preservation Trust of Vermont returned to the Congregational Church to do another condition assessment because of leaks in the steeple. The church is getting bids to repair the steeple, with some coming in between \$40,000 - \$50,000. The church is deciding how to proceed. Peter Brink will get in touch with Doug James to see if he can help.

6. **Project Updates: Historic Marker Norwich Historic District:** Nancy Hoggson reported that she and Peter with the help of John Dumville are fine-tuning the wording for the historic marker which will be placed on the Norwich Historical Society's property.

Website enhancement: Part of the grant cycle, the HPC website will get going in August and will be linked to the Norwich Historical Society website.

7. **Other Business: Wine Tasting:** Cheryl Herrmann reported that Dan & Whit's will be hosting a wine tasting at the Norwich Inn on August 29th, the Root District School and the Beaver Meadow School being the beneficiaries. There will be displays about both schools at the Norwich Public Library. **Historic Preservation Commission:** Members applauded Nancy Hoggson and Peter Brink's leadership of this Commission, which was formed when Norwich became a Certified Local Government. The walking tour brochure and other projects cited in these and other minutes attest to the vitality of the commission and its leaders.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Osgood

APPROVED JANUARY 16, 2013

