

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

Monday, November 11, 2019

Community Room, Norwich Public Library

Members present: Peter Brink, vice-chair; Deb Brian, Anne Silberfarb, Bill Aldrich, Phil Zea, and Nancy Osgood

Also present: Sarah Rooker, Director of the Norwich Historical Society

Peter called the meeting to order at 10 o'clock.

Peter welcomed our newest member, Phil Zea. To the enthusiastic introduction Phil replied that he is a native of the Upper Valley, grew up in Meriden, and from a young age enjoyed the friendship of Louise and Albert Johnson, the former owners of his Norwich home. Phil has worked for a host of cultural organizations including Historic New England, Colonial Williamsburg, and Historic Deerfield where he is now president. We are delighted he has joined the Commission.

Peter noted that Folger Tuggle, who has significant experience and interest in Norwich history and architecture, has submitted his application to the Selectboard to be appointed to this commission, and when that happens, the commission will be at its maximum size of 7.

- 1. Review of the minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting:** Anne moved, Bill seconded, and we voted unanimously that the minutes of the May 23rd meeting be approved as written.
- 2. Update on podcast driving tours funded by CLG grant:** Sarah gave us an update on the 3 Norwich driving podcast tours that she is doing: schools, early settlement, and the history of early industry and commerce in Norwich, particularly mills. Development of the tours is funded by a Certified Local Government grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to the Town of Norwich, with a request for proposals done, and the winning proposal, selected by NHPC, being that submitted by the Norwich Historical Society.

The first of the tours, on the schools, is almost complete, the route with the 7 designated stops to take about 1 hour 20 minutes. The text is set; Milt Frye and Wendy Thompson are the two narrators. CATV will help with the recording. Doug Lufkin and Jonathan Frishtick are in the process of designing maps and a brochure to accompany the podcast during which we will learn about education in Norwich and the saga of the

consolidation of the one-room schoolhouses. This as well as the other podcasts will be launched with much fanfare. There will be a webpage for the podcasts.

Each podcast will be a mix of history and engaging stories. The text of the second podcast about early settlement history in Norwich is in the draft stage with the thought that it may be expanded to include another stop.

Asked about NHS walking tours, Sarah reported that the walking tours are very popular especially with people in the community. The one on Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Norwich drew people from a broader area. Phil pointed out that many would be interested, as a future project, in learning more about Joseph Smith and the history of the Smith family in Norwich.

Sarah added that the next Norwich Historical Society exhibit will open in February and will focus on women activists in Norwich and their role in the abolition, suffrage, and temperance movements. It will also include the history of the Norwich Women's Club.

- 3. Update and discussion of other current projects:** Quoting from the summary which Peter distributed earlier:

Goodrich Four Corners is now listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places. Many thanks to all who helped with this!

Brigham Hill Farm nomination as a National Register district was reviewed by the Vermont Advisory Board and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service for final review and listing.

Maple Hill Farm nomination was reviewed by the Vermont Advisory Board and returned for minor amendments. Consultant Brian Knight is now doing these.

Meeting House Farm nomination was reviewed by the Vermont Advisory Board and returned for minor amendments. Brian Knight is now doing these.

Mid-Century Modern multi-property nomination (MPDF) for the National Register by consultant Lyssa Papazian has been approved by Devin Coleman, State Architectural Historian, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and will now go before the Vermont Advisory Board. **Nominations of three properties pursuant to the MPDF** by Brian Knight have been approved by Devin Colman and will now go before the Vermont Advisory Board; the three properties are: Redwood House, Stockmeyer House, and Eldredge House.

Thanks to Sarah Rooker, all individual structures and districts thus far listed on the National Register of Historic Places are available in full text, photos, and maps on the

Norwich Historical Society's website under the heading "Historic Preservation." The last actual listing of the Goodrich Four Corners district is now there in full.

- 4. Discussion regarding requests for FY2020 grants from the Certified Local Government Program, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the deadline of which is December 16th. This includes consideration of recommendations in Lyssa Papazian's Windshield Survey Report of Dec. 15, 2015, updated on Feb. 8, 2016.**

We considered several of her recommendations including Jones Circle, Union Village, and developing a MPDF for Agricultural Resources, but because we are concerned about the physical state of some of the barns in Norwich and recognize their importance to our rural landscape and history, we focused most intently on them.

In 2009 the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation did a rough barn census and listed approximately 30 barns in Norwich. Wishing to expand on this list, document them more fully, and share what we learn,

Phil moved, Bill seconded, and we voted unanimously that the NHPC apply for a CLG grant to do a robust survey of the barns and include public outreach.

Peter noted that this detailed survey will also assist owners in applying, if they choose, to the Vermont Barn grant program (matching grants). The link for the current Norwich barn survey is: <https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/identifying-resources/barn-census/barn-census-database>. Peter will get consult with various individuals and develop the grant proposal for the December 16 deadline.

- 5. Other business:** There was no other business.

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

- 6. Adjourn:** Anne moved, Bill seconded, and we voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned, which was at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Osgood