

DRAFT MINUTES
NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
10:30 a.m.

At the Norwich Historical Society

Members Present:

Peter Brink, Vice Chair
Bill Aldrich, Clerk
Anne Silberfarb, Secretary
Cheryl Herrmann, Member
Nancy Osgood, Member
Deborah Brien, Member

Staff Present:

Phil Dechert, Planning Director

Colleagues Present:

Jane Korey, NHS Representative
Sarah Rooker, NHS Executive Director

Absent:

Roger Blake, Advisory Member

Peter Brink called the meeting to order at 10:30AM

1. Review and approval of the Minutes from Wednesday, September 27 (attached).

Discussion included: Time sheets of volunteer hours are still needed for current projects. Phil automatically counts the time members have spent at NHPC meetings. Our draft minutes for each meeting are posted by Phil's office on the Town website within 5 days. Nancy asked Phil to double check that all minutes that should be there are, in fact, there.

Nancy moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2017. Bill seconded the motion, and members approved the minutes unanimously.

2. Review of Recommendations for follow up action from the Norwich Windshield Survey.

We have largely completed the National Register nominations for a Mid-Century Modern District and for the Goodrich Four Corners District. Phil has drafted the contract to do the Archeological Resource Assessment for Pompanoosuc & Pattersonville, and he will draft the contract shortly to do the National Register nomination for a Brigham Hill District and the National Register nomination for Maple Hill Farm.

3. Decisions regarding projects to apply for matching grants from the Certified Local Government program (deadline for submission for the 2018 Grant Round is no later than Monday December 18, 2017).

Sarah proposed that some of the mid-century modern houses could be done as individual projects, especially while this era is highly visible in public awareness now. It was the consensus that it is desirable to keep a balance between modern houses and antique houses. It was agreed by consensus that nominating Lewiston as a National Register District is important and that we should have further discussion with Dartmouth College, the principle owner, about doing this. Given the timing, however, we would have to wait until the fall of 2018 to submit any request for a CLG grant to assist in doing this.

The members considered seeking CLG grants, with approval of the respective owners, to nominate the two Allan Gelbin houses not located in the Mid-Century Modern District and also the two houses designed by the Hunter firm, again subject to approval by the respective owners.

Members also discussed potential outreach projects, building upon the Historic Walking Tour brochure and app developed regarding Main Street. But there was not consensus on a project.

Members then considered a Multi-Property Resource Nomination to the National Register of appropriate mid-century modern houses throughout Norwich, but not located in the Mid-Century Modern District. We would need to contact owners individually to be sure none is opposed to his or her respective property being included.

Also, it was suggested applying for a CLG matching grant to nominate Meeting House Farm to the National Register. Peter has contacted the owners and they have no objection to this.

Resolved that the NHPC apply (i) for a CLG grant to do a Multi-Property Resource Nomination of outstanding Mid-Century Modern houses throughout Norwich (outside the already nominated Mid-Century Modern District) and (ii) to do an individual National Register nomination for Meeting House Farm. The resolution was approved by acclamation.

4. Current CLG projects.

In addition to the updates in 2 above, the commission discussed the additional outstanding CLG grant, which related to Pompanoosuc & Pattersonville.

After discussion it was moved by Nancy Osgood and seconded by Cheryl Herrmann that NHPC will turn back to the VDHP the \$2,000 CLG grant for a report on Native American settlements and hunting/fishing activities in the potential Pompanoosuc & Pattersonville Archaeological & Historic Area. The motion was approved unanimously. NHPC had issued the RFP for this project, but received no proposals in response. In addition, there are concerns by local Native American experts with regard to sharing any information in such a report that might indicate geographic locations of evidences of such activities.

5. Update on programming re Mid-Century Modern by Norwich Historical Society – Sarah Rooker

Sarah summarized the work by her and NHS on the Mid-Century Modern exhibit at NHS and in doing walking tours and presentations

regarding Mid-Century Modern architecture in Norwich. Peter noted this was excellent synergy between NHPC's nomination of the Mid-Century Modern District and NHS building on this and expanding the research into the exhibit, tours and presentations. Sarah noted she is now working to put the presentation on line, but needs a good proof of the links, etc., and Deb volunteered to do this.

Sarah announced that NHS is planning two talks on historic house renovations and energy retrofits. She is pleased to add Norwich Historic Preservation Commission as an additional sponsor:

January 21: "Energy Retrofits for Old Houses" at the Norwich Historical Society.

January 28: "Planning for a Historic Renovation" at NHS

6. Other updates and business

There were none.

7. Adjournment by acclamation at 11:45AM