

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Draft minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Tracy Hall, Conference Room of the Planning Department

Members present: Peter Brink, vice-chair, Deb Brian, Nancy Osgood

Members absent: Anne Silberfarb, Bill Aldrich

Also present: Rod Francis, Norwich Planning and Zoning Director. Jaci Allen, Chair, Norwich Planning Commission, joined the meeting later.

Peter called the meeting to order at 10:35.

Auto Tour Podcasts:

We discussed the four responses to our Request for Proposals to develop 3 Auto Tour Podcasts that highlight Norwich's buildings and districts that are on the National Register. The podcasts are to focus on 1. early settlement, 2. historic schools, and 3. early industry and commerce in Norwich.

Proposals were received from Brian Knight Research, the Norwich Historical Society, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., and Hartgen Archeological Associates.

After discussion and review of the proposals and costs, Deb moved and Nancy seconded that we accept the proposal of the Norwich Historical Society. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the November 2, 2018 meeting:

We reviewed the draft minutes of the November 2, 2018 meeting. A couple punctuation omissions were spotted in the minutes. Peter moved and Deb seconded that the minutes of the November 2, 2018 meeting be approved with the two punctuation omissions (a period and a hyphen) corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates on the progress of National Register nominations:

Devin Coleman, State Architectural Historian at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation sent Peter an update on NHPC projects. Peter did a summary of Devin's updates and added updates on the Mid-Century Modern multi-property nomination and the Archeological Resource Assessment of Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville. The updates Peter distributed to the commission members are below. Peter mentioned that it takes nearly 2 years for a nomination to go from initial research, drafts, and reviews to actual listing on the National Register.

Goodrich Four Corners nomination as a district on the National Register was sent to the Advisory Council and National Parks Service for final review. Hopefully listing will be within a few weeks.

Brigham Hill draft nomination as a district on the National Register is almost ready to go to the Advisory Council. Devin needs to do one more review of Lyssa Papazian's text, maps and photos for this nomination.

Maple Hill Farm draft nomination to the National Register is in Devin's hands. He will begin reviewing Brian Knight's draft soon.

Meeting House Farm draft nomination to the National Register is also in Devin's hands. He will begin reviewing Brian Knight's draft soon.

Devin's goal is to complete his reviews and submit the above 3 draft nominations to the Advisory Council in October.

Mid-Century Modern multi-property nomination (MPDF) for the National Register: Lyssa Papazian has submitted her draft nomination to Devin. He has provided some feedback to her. The revised nomination should be ready within the next few weeks.

Historic Archeological Resource Assessment of Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville: Hartgen's archaeological resource assessment of the proposed Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville historic districts is available on the Norwich Historical Society's website as are Nancy Osgood's brief histories of the Patterson Chair Company and the hamlet of Pompanoosuc. All can be found under the heading: Historic Preservation.

Seeking to make the summaries of the history of Pompanoosuc and the Patterson Chair Company easily available, Peter is going to follow through on Rod Francis's good suggestion of putting up a small sign both in Pattersonville and Pompanoosuc with a QR code that would take the curious to this material on the Norwich Historical Society's website.

Mid-Century Modern Houses in Norwich and Hanover: Nancy and Peter will get in touch with the Hanover Historical Society to share with it the nominations NHPC has done in Norwich and see if Hanover is pursuing similar nominations or would like to do so. The development of Mid-Century Modern houses in this area very much includes both Norwich and Hanover.

Town Plan:

Jaci Allen, Chair of the Planning Commission, led a discussion concerning the rewriting of the Town Plan, seeking most particularly input from the NHPC concerning identifying,

protecting, and preserving historic features. This part of the Town Plan will appear in the second chapter, Land Use.

To facilitate discussion, Jaci handed out a summary of the responses from the 2018 Town Survey. Below are outcomes of the discussion with Jaci and Rod regarding historic preservation and the Town Plan.

Current state:

* Norwich's status as a Certified Local Government provides key assistance in providing valuable information about Norwich's historic areas and structures.

- The Norwich Windshield Survey provides brief information on all structures in the Town and is available to inform owners and the Development Review Board and zoning regulations developed by the Planning Commission.
- Numerous districts and individual properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places to provide detailed historic and architectural information, and are similarly available. (All available on-line at Norwichhistory.org; Historic Preservation)
- Local designations and design regulations have not been pursued, and the historic character of the Village has been maintained to date.

Future Actions to preserve and protect historic features:

- Complete an historic preservation and brownfield assessment of Lewiston in conjunction with Dartmouth.
- Consider incentive programs to encourage adaptive reuse of historic structures.
- Update the inventory of barns at risk, and offer assistance obtaining state grants to offset rehabilitation costs.
- Participate in a working group to improve bike-ability and walkability while preserving the historic character of the town.

Following the discussion, Peter moved to adjourn the meeting, Nancy seconded, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Osgood

Secretary Pro Tem