

**Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Lewis House, 277 Main Street, Norwich, Vermont**

Minutes of the January 2, 2014 Meeting

Attending: Nancy Hoggson, Peter Brink, Anne Silberfarb, Stuart White, Nancy Osgood, Roger Blake, Bill Aldrich, and Phil Dechert (CLG Coordinator)

Absent: Cheryl Herrmann

Nancy Hoggson, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:07.

1. The draft minutes of the January 13, 2013, meeting were approved as written. The draft minutes of the February 13, 2013, and February 27, 2013, meetings were approved as amended. It was decided that the secretary would circulate the draft and approved minutes to all HPC members. The chair will send the approved minutes to Nancy Kramer at Tracy Hall.
2. Officers for 2014: Peter Brink was nominated as Vice Chair and Bill Aldrich as Clerk. The motion having been made by Nancy Osgood and seconded by Anne Silberfarb, Peter Brink and Bill Aldrich were elected unanimously to the positions stated above.
3. Nancy Hoggson spoke about the new owners of Norwich Square: Jane Osgood and Ted Hilles. They both have a strong commitment to historic preservation as can be seen by their projects in Windsor. She said further that they would be wonderful stewards of Norwich Square and fine neighbors. Nancy will send Jane and Ted a packet of information detailing what the HPC has been doing and will include in the covering letter our desire to host a reception for them hopefully in February. All tenants of Norwich Square will be invited.
4. Review of 2012 projects:
 - a. In Cheryl's absence Nancy Hoggson filled us in on the Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse. She reviewed the grants they have received: \$10,000 from the Byrne Foundation with the pledge of another \$10,000 if they successfully match the initial \$10,000 grant, \$2,000 from the Norwich Women's Club, and \$22,500 from the Vermont Arts Council. The status of their application for a grant from the Mascoma Bank is unknown. Some of these grants require matches. About \$1,000 is raised through the sale of cocoa mulch. Much fundraising needs to be done in a timely fashion to make the necessary repairs/renovations to the Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse which is the site of many Beaver Meadow activities.

- b. Peter Brink gave us an update on the Root Schoolhouse: the organization is now a non-profit corporation under Vermont law. Application has been made for the organization to have a 501 © 3 designation. A well-crafted grant proposal was submitted to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for a matching grant but it was unsuccessful due, it is thought, to the lack of identified matching funds. Having a Montessori School in the Root Schoolhouse is still a possibility.
5. Nancy Hoggson spoke of Karen Lubell who is now living in Norwich in a house designed by the architect, Allan Gelbin, who was an apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright and the supervising architect for Wright's Zimmerman House in Manchester, N.H. Karen has done a lot of research on this architect and has identified 8 houses in Norwich, 1 in Hanover, and 1 in Quechee that he designed. Thanks to her research and emails with Stu White, we learned further that Hopson Road area may contain the largest concentration of modern homes in Vermont. A future project for the HPC could be to lay the ground work for these modern houses to be in an historic district.
 6. In the fall of last year, the Historic Preservation Commission successfully applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for \$14,925 for their Norwich Farms Project. This grant involves a \$4,400 cash match (Federal money cannot be used.), and \$5,550 in donated services. The project total is \$24,875.

The following 8 farms and farmers will be part of this project:

Jean Essex & Michael Linehan, New Boston Road
 Hill Top Farm – Mark Langlois
 Meetinghouse Farm - Jay Van Arman
 Northeast Corner Farm – David and Jodie Horan
 Hogwash Farm – Nancy LaRowe and Dave Yesman
 Killdeer Farm – Jake and Liz Guest
 Sweetland Farm – Norah Lake
 Piroette Farm – Bob Piro

Charlotte Bothe has written extensively about the history of the Norwich Farmer's Market and is willing to make her work available.

Nancy Hoggson, Peter Brink, and Phil Dechert presented the proposals from the various applicants for the positions of oral history specialist, writer/researcher, and filmmaker for this project.

The applicants and their proposals were carefully reviewed, and after thoughtful deliberation, the following were selected: (It should be noted that Anne Silberfarb recused herself by leaving the meeting before the filmmakers' proposals were reviewed.)

Oral history specialist: Vermont Folklife Center (Greg Sharrow)

Writer/researcher: Seth Goodwin

Filmmaker: Ben Silberfarb.

Nancy Hoggson and Phil Dechert will get in touch with those who have been selected and will send them the appropriate, detailed contracts and will thank those who also submitted proposals but were not chosen.

Peter distributed a draft of items to be covered in the oral history interviews, in accordance with HPC responsibility in the grant proposal and the RFP. Nancy and Peter will get in touch with Greg Sharrow at the Vermont Folklife Center to flesh out the oral history questions and any other issues that should be resolved before the meeting on January 14th.

A meeting of all involved in this project is scheduled for January 14 at 2 p.m. at Tracy Hall.

Volunteer forms: Phil and his office will be in charge of the volunteer forms. Until further instructions from Phil, HPC members should keep track of the number of hours they devote to this project and how they are spent.

7. Added here for the record is this item from the agenda under "News" - The historic marker – "*Norwich History*" was installed on the NHS lawn, Main Street side, thanks to Roger Blake and the Department of Public Works.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Osgood

APPROVED 1-14-14