

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Thursday, October 25, 2018

10:30 a.m.

At the Norwich Historical Society

APPROVED 11-2-18

Members Present: Peter Brink, Vice Chair, Deb Brian, Cheryl Herrmann, Bill Aldrich, and Nancy Osgood

Members Absent: Anne Silberfarb (to host major family event)

Also present: Sarah Rooker, Director, Norwich Historical Society, and Jane Korey, NHS representative

Also absent: Rod Francis, Norwich Planning Director (to attend planning conference)

Peter called the meeting to order at 10:35.

The Meeting

1. The minutes from the Friday, July 20, 2018, NHPC meeting were unanimously approved as written.
2. With the December 17, 2018, deadline approaching to apply for matching grants in the Certified Local Government program, we discussed various potential projects, referring to recommendations in Lyssa Papazian's December 15, 2015, Norwich Windshield Survey Report that was updated on February 8, 2016.

We decided, unanimously, that we would apply for two grants:

1. to nominate to the National Register properties on Elm Street either as a stand-alone historic district or as an amendment to the existing Norwich Village Historic District, and
2. to apply for a grant to fund podcasts readily available to all that would lead participants on driving/bicycling/walking tours of those sections of Norwich of particular architectural

and historical significance. A little further research needs to be done to determine the size of the grants for which we need to apply.

(Note: The grant request for properties on Elm Street is subject to a discussion with Lyssa Papazian about eligibility and boundaries, and then being sure that no owners of properties to be nominated object to that.)

Put on the back burner were several other projects about which we were all enthusiastic: drawing up papers to nominate the houses in Jones Circle to the National Register as well as a cluster of properties on Waterman Hill, the latter either as a stand-alone historic district or included in a larger Pompanoosuc Historic District that would also include the Waterman Hill Cemetery and the areas known as Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville.

(Note: Pursuing the nomination of Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville is subject to further discussion with Tom Jamison, who did the Archeological Resources Assessment for these areas.)

3. Updates on current CLG projects – Peter Brink & Nancy Osgood:

- a) The Mid-Century Modern District as previously reported has been officially listed on the National Register and is available online on the NHS website under the heading “Historic Preservation.”
- b) Brian Knight’s 2016 Goodrich 4 Corners Historic District nomination to the National Register has been approved by Devin Colman, State Architectural Historian in the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and should have gone before the Vermont Advisory Board on October 18th. No word about it yet.
- c) Brian Knight’s 2017 National Register nomination for Maple Hill Farm has been submitted to the Division for Devin Colman’s review. Phil Zea, the owner, helped greatly with the research.
- d) Lyssa Papazian’s 2017 nomination to the National Register for the Brigham Hill Historic District has been submitted to Devin Colman for review.
- e) Hartgen Archeological Associates’ Archeological Resource Assessment of proposed Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville

Historic Districts is now online (NHS website). Nancy Osgood and Peter Brink are drafting proposals for signage for these two areas. Nancy led a walking tour of Pompanoosuc earlier this month.

- f) Brian Knight, Peter Brink, and Nancy Osgood met with Jay and Deb van Arman earlier this month. Deb and Jay shared a great deal of history about their farm (Meeting House Farm) and gave us a marvelous tour. This was a poignant reminder of how important these nominations are to obtain and preserve such important history.
- g) Lyssa Papazian has signed the contract and has begun work on the 2018 Mid-Century Modern Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). She will be submitting a rough draft soon. Once developed, Brian will use it to nominate three individual Mid-Century Modern homes pursuant to the proposed MPDF.

4. Update from the Planning Director:

In Rod's absence Peter reported that he has updated the action items for the NHPC pursuant to the Town Plan. He circulated his proposals to NHPC members. All comments received were good, and the updated action items have been submitted to the Planning Office.

5. Update from the Norwich Historical Society – Jane Korey and Sarah Rooker:

- a) Jane echoed everyone's delight that Sarah is now back as director. Jane reported that the Antiques Show was quite successful. Good routine going there. The Society is now working on the exhibit theme for next year – schooling and education. Norwich University will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2019. We will be coordinating some programs with them. NHS will use old Norwich school districts as a window on the history of the town.
- b) Thinking about that anniversary and the Historical Society's exhibition theme, Sarah said that she will be developing a walking tour about Norwich University history. This was touched on in her well-attended Civil War walking tour that was offered this summer. The walking tours are very popular with more than 90 people attending with waiting lists in reserve.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Osgood, Secretary pro tem.

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