

**Historic Preservation Commission
Norwich Historical Society**

Minutes for the April 29, 2014 Meeting

Members present: Nancy Hoggson (Chair), Peter Brink (Vice-chair), Bill Aldrich (Clerk), Anne Silberfarb, and Nancy Osgood.

Members Absent: Cheryl Herrmann and Stuart White

Also present: Roger Blake (Advisory Member) and Phil Dechert (CLG Coordinator)

Nancy Hoggson called the meeting to order at 10:06.

1. Bill Aldrich moved and Peter Brink seconded that the minutes of the January 14, 2014, meeting be approved as circulated. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Norwich Farms Project update:

Nancy H. & Peter updated the committee on the status of the Norwich Farms project. Nancy distributed the timeline which has been pretty much adhered to. Chad Finer has completed photographing the farms. Nancy H. & Peter will be selecting 4 images of each farm for the exhibit this weekend. Charlotte Barrett has written the text to accompany Chad's photographs.

Ben Silberfarb has produced a private trailer of the video he is making for this project. Liking his title, we have now decided to use the following title for the Norwich Farms Project: **Cycles of Change – Farming in Norwich**. Ben will be producing a "trailer" of the video for the NHS website and a longer one (5 – 8 minutes) for the exhibit and for school and community programs.

Alan Berolzheimer has graciously agreed that we could use an edited version of his article about farming in Norwich that appeared in the winter/spring edition of the *Norwich Times* as the introductory panel for the exhibit. Seth Goodwin has written what may turn out to be a 4-page history of farming in Norwich. This with endnotes and photographs will be available as a handout at the exhibit.

A grant application has been submitted to the Vermont Humanities Council for monies to sponsor school and community programs centering on the Norwich Farms Project and developed by Sarah Rooker and Alan Berolzheimer. We should hear if the application was successful on May 15th. The programs would run from October, 2014, until the end of May, 2015.

The initial cost of the Norwich Farms Project has increased due to our needing to turn to a firm in Boston to transcribe the MP3 recordings of the interviews the Vermont Folklife Center did of the farmers for this project and additional costs involving the work on and the layout and printing of the handout on the history of farming in Norwich. The matching-funds cash match needed could exceed the cash match currently projected at \$6,950.

With the cash match in mind Nancy H. and Peter have approached various individuals and institutions and have received positive replies from four with five pending. Additional organizations, individuals, and businesses were discussed as potential donors. All prospects receive information covering project goals, action plan, budget, and methods of acknowledgement. Contributions to help fund this project are made payable to the Town of Norwich and are sent to Phil Dechert at Tracy Hall. All who help underwrite this project will be recognized.

Phil will do an up-to-date spreadsheet of the Norwich Farms Project budget making sure that the in-kind matching funds (staff and volunteer time) and cash matching funds are appropriate and all expenses met.

Sandra Smith-Ordway is about to start laying out the material for the exhibit which will fill three rooms at the Lewis House. Artifacts from the Historical Society's collection will be used to complement the exhibit.

3. Opening reception for Cycles of Change – Farming in Norwich:

The opening reception will be held on Friday, June 20th from 5-7 at the Lewis House. A good turnout is expected. An on-line company will be used to print invitations which will be sent to a targeted group of people. ListServ, posters, emails to NHS members, etc., will be used to ensure that the community is aware of the opening and that all are welcome. Sandra will be asked to design the invitation and poster. Vermont-produced foods will be emphasized at the reception. The HPC will pitch in to help corral what we need. Nancy H. will keep us abreast of the fundraising and reception needs.

4. 2015 CLG award update:

While we have indeed been notified that we will be awarded a CLG grant for our “windshield” survey of historic structures beyond Norwich’s Historic District, the paperwork has not come in. We expect it to arrive once the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has fine-tuned the parameters of this project, with Norwich serving as the test case for this kind of documentation.

5. Norwich Square – reception for new owners – Jane Osgood & Ted Hilles:

Nancy H. will confer with business owners in Norwich Square and with Jane Osgood and Ted Hilles to determine the best day, date, and time to host the reception. The months of July, August, and September will be considered.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Osgood

APPROVED 6-5-14