

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, June 14, 2018

10:30 am

At the Norwich Historical Society

Minutes

Members Present:

Peter Brink, Vice Chair

Bill Aldrich, Clerk

Anne Silberfarb, Secretary

Nancy Osgood, Member

Deborah Brien, Member

Staff Present: none

Colleagues Present:

Sarah Rooker, NHS Executive Director

Absent:

Cheryl Herrmann, Member

Roger Blake, Advisory Member

Jane Korey, NHS Representative

Guest:

Phil Dechert, who has retired as Norwich Planning Director - but still joined us to participate in the meeting!

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

1. Review and approval of Minutes from Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Peter suggested the following change in the minutes: On page 3, first paragraph (re a Multi-Property Resource Nomination to the National Register of mid-century modern houses) revise the last sentence to read "We would need to contact owners whose houses would be nominated individually as part of the submission of the Multi-Property Resource

Nomination, to be sure none is opposed to his or her respective property being so nominated.”

Nancy Osgood moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, November 14, 2017, as amended. Anne Silberfarb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Consideration of submission(s) to the Request for Proposals of May 8, 2018 to prepare nomination to the National Register of Meeting House Farm (RFP and Submission). (The RFP and the sole submission in response had been distributed to members ahead of time.)

We received one submission in response to the RFP – and that was from Brian Knight. June 11 was the deadline. Brian’s proposal of \$3,300 is \$500 under the allowed fee of \$3,800.

Nancy thought his proposal was good, and his work with regard to Meeting House Farm would be especially beneficial because Brian is already preparing the nomination for Maple Hill Farm, which is about a mile away and constructed near the same year. There should be valuable relationships between the two early farms.

At the same time all agreed that we want to maintain two or more high quality consultants working on NHPC projects. Peter noted that we have sent the RFP for the Mid-Century Modern Multi-Property Nomination to four consultants, including two new ones suggested by Devin Colman at the Vermont Division.

It was also noted that we need to pay special attention to ensuring the proposed volunteer work is done and recorded - in this case, this would include contributions of history by Jay and Deb van Arman, the owners.

Nancy moved that Brian Knight’s proposal for Meeting House Farm be accepted. The motion was second by Bill Aldrich, and approved unanimously.

Phil will ask Pam to prepare a draft contract for review by Peter Brink.

3. Updates on current CLG projects by Peter Brink and Nancy Osgood:

- **Mid-Century Modern District (at Pine Tree & Hopson)** - The Nomination to the National Register should be approved by the National Park Service shortly. NPS must decide on a nomination within 45 days of receipt, and it has already had the nomination for 30 days.

- **Goodrich Four Corners District** – The Nomination to the National Register is being revised by Brian Knight pursuant to comments by Devin Colman and then will be considered by the Vermont Advisory Board.

- **Maple Hill Farm** – Work on the Nomination to the National Register is underway. Nancy reported that Peter, Brian and she had met with Phil and Betsy Zea at Maple Hill Farm. Brian provided a comprehensive tour of the house and barns, and shared his extensive knowledge of the history of the farm. Brian and Phil Zea have since had a follow-up meeting to review Phil's substantial collection of historical documents and family papers relating to Maple Hill Farm.

- **Brigham Hill District** - Nomination to the National Register. Work has been slow by consultant Lyssa Papazian, but is now moving forward. The deadline for the submission of the draft to NHPC is the end of this month.

- **Mid-Century Modern Multi-Property National Register Nomination** - The importance of this nomination is that it will establish a historical and architectural context for mid-century modern properties in Norwich. Once the Multi-Property listing is achieved, individual nominations of Mid-Century Modern properties in Norwich will be simpler to do as they can rely upon the historical and architectural context of the Multi-Property Listing. The Town issued an RFP for this on May 24 with a submission deadline of July 16.
Members set a meeting of NHPC for 10:30am on Friday July 20th to consider the proposals and select a consultant to work with NHPC on this complex nomination.

- Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville Archeology Resource Assessment - Update by Nancy Osgood. Tom Jamison of Hartgen Archeological Associates has submitted his report, with extensive historical documentation and photos. The report provides an excellent review of the history of both Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville.

In follow up questions to Tom Jamison about the possibility of the areas being listed on the National Register as an archeology district he had responded that at this point it would be a stretch to successfully nominate either area an archeological district without extensive subsurface archeological excavations.

As previously decided, NHPC is using the remaining \$2,000 in the CLG grant for Tom Jamison to provide text, photos, and a map for an interpretive sign, with the intention of placing this sign at an appropriate place in or near the areas, hopefully in the public boat launching area. This information would also be posted on the NHS website. Peter will also forward the report to Jess Robinson, the State Archeologist, who has previously advised us. Nancy will be giving a walking tour of the areas in the fall. Sarah suggested we seek one or more Vermont Historical Markers to interpret the area further, and Nancy, Peter and Sarah will pursue this.

- Volunteer Hours - In all these projects it is key that we as volunteers contribute to the projects with our work and that we keep track of these hours. This is a key component of providing the matching contribution for all of these Certified Local Government grants.

4. Update on Homes Tour, walking tours, and exhibits by Norwich Historical Society – Sarah Rooker

June 23rd is the date for the NHS House and Garden Tour with floral decorations in the houses; all houses are on Main Street.

July 8th: A Walking Tour is planned for the Village Center with regard to Slavery, Abolition and the Civil War. The Walking Tour is at 3 PM.

August 19th: Mid-Century Modern Walking Tour (Hopson Road), 3PM.

September 9: Lewiston, A Ghost Hamlet Walking Tour, 1:30 PM

5. Update on Vermont Historic Preservation Conference, Friday, June 8, in Bristol, VT – Peter Brink reported that about 100 preservationists from across the state participated (sold out). Dar Williams, touring singer and author of What I Found in a Thousand Towns, presented her insights into what enables many small towns to succeed and remain vital centers of community. A highlight of the day was a tour of the privately developed co-housing project in the Village Center of Bristol – featuring both renovated structures and new construction.

6. Other updates and business. Distribution and Status of Norwich Historic Walking Tour brochures: Peter and Sarah reported that we have more than 5,000 brochures in storage at NHS and that we have been distributing about 2,000 a year through selected Vermont Welcome Centers and locally, especially at the Norwich Inn.

7. Planning Director. Peter again thanked Phil Dechert for his excellent work with NHPC. Peter also reported that, at the invitation of Town Manager Herb Durfee, Peter had participated in the interviews of candidates for the position of Director of Planning and Zoning; Peter represented NHPC with representatives of the Development Review Board, Planning Commission and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission; they provided feedback to the Town Manager, who is making the final decision.

8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:25AM

Anne Silberfarb, Secretary

APPROVED 7-20-18

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