

NORWICH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

Friday, June 20, 2018

10:30 am

At the Norwich Historical Society (NHS)

Members Present:

Peter Brink, Vice Chair

Anne Silberfarb, Secretary

Nancy Osgood

Deborah Brien

Cheryl Herrmann

Staff Present:

Rod Francis, Norwich Director of Planning

Partners Present:

Jane Korey, NHS

Partners Absent:

Sarah Rooker, NHS Executive Director

Absent:

Bill Aldrich, Clerk

Guests:

None

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

1. Introduction and welcome of Rod Francis, new Director of Planning.

2. Review and approval of Minutes from June 14, 2018

Correction: delete redundant "to" on p 2, 5th new para, line 3.

Correction: spelling of "Pompanoosuc" (not " Pompanoosac") throughout.

Deb Brien moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2018 with the noted corrections. Nancy Osgood seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Consideration of submissions for the Request for Proposals of May 24: Norwich Mid-Century Modern Multi-Property National Register Nomination, including the nomination of 3 identified individual houses pursuant to that Multi-Property Nomination (MPDF).

This nomination will set forth the history and context of Mid-Century Architecture in Norwich and also establish criteria for individual Mid-Century Modern houses to be listed on the National Register pursuant to the Multi-Property listing. Technically this umbrella nomination is called an MPDF i.e. Multi-Property Documentation Form. This nomination will include the nomination of three individual Mid-Century Modern houses in Norwich pursuant to the proposed MPDF. (Of these, one house will be nominated without identification of a street address, at the owner's request.)

The successful nomination of this multi-property listing will mean that, in future, nominations of additional Mid-Century Modern houses in Norwich can be done pursuant to the MPDF provided each meets the criteria for individual nominations established in the MPDF. These individual nominations can thus rely upon the historical and architectural context established in the MPDF regarding Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Norwich – thus saving the owners extensive research and writing time.

The Town sent the RFP to 5 consultants recommended by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Two consultants submitted proposals. These are Lyssa Papazian and Brian Knight, both of whom NHPC has contracted with in the past. Both indicated in writing that they would like to do this work together, i.e. as a shared contract. Members agreed in discussion that Lyssa Papazian will be the lead contractor for the project and that she will then subcontract with Brian

Knight. In that way the Town is contracting with a single entity. It is anticipated that Lyssa will subcontract with Brian to do parts of the contract.

Nancy moved, and Cheryl seconded, that NHPC accepts the proposal of Lyssa Papazian in response to the Mid-Century Modern MPDF Request for Proposals, with the understanding that agreed upon portions of the work will be subcontracted to Brian Knight. The Town will contract with Lyssa for this work and approve the subcontract with Brian. Further that Lyssa and Brian will meet with Peter and Nancy prior to the start of work to review their respective responsibilities and to project tasks and timing of work to be done by volunteers.

The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Brief updates on current NHPC projects:

- Mid-Century Modern District National Register Listing – This district, including houses on Pine Tree, Spring Pond, and parts of Hobson Road, is now officially listed on the National Register. The plan is to put the full nomination on-line with the NHS website.
- Goodrich Four Corners District National Register Nomination – We are still awaiting the completion of review by the VT Division.
- Brigham Hill District National Register Nomination – A near-final draft was recently received from Lyssa Papazian, and it looks well done. Nancy is copying all deeds (starting with the late 1700s) for Brigham Hill properties and sending these to Lyssa.
- Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville Archeological Resource Assessment – The amended contract to do text/photos/map for an interpretive sign has recently been sent to consultant Tom Jamison of HARTGEN Archeology. Once this work is done, we need to have the layout designed and actual sign designed and fabricated, attracting funding for this additional work and obtaining permission from the owners of an appropriate site open to the public for erection of the sign. In any case the proposed signage would be put on the NHS website and, hopefully, the full archeological report will be as well. If all of this does not work

out, or possibly in addition, NHPC and NHS will pursue creation of one or more Vermont Historical Markers for Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville.

5. Brief updates from Norwich Historical Society.

Jane Korey reported for Sarah Rooker that NHS plans to hold its Antique Show this fall and a Christmas Celebration in December. The House and Garden Tour this year was of excellent quality, but attendance suffered due to rain. NHS will continue with the Tour and continue to look for ways to increase its value, such as the recent addition of a special lecture, plein air painting, possibly a Patron event, and relating the selection of houses to an historic theme.

6. Discussion with Rod Francis, the new Norwich Planning Director.

Rod lives in Hartland. He was planning director in Brattleboro for 10 years and has extensive planning experience. Peter has shared the Windshield Survey with Rod, and Rod will talk with Phil Dechert about the electronic mapped version of the Survey and its use in providing historical/architectural information about properties in consideration for actions by the Planning Department. Everyone welcomed Rod and looks forward to working with him.

7. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:43AM.

Anne Silberfarb, Secretary

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