



TOWN OF NORWELL
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
(781) 659-8000

Norwell Historical Commission Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laurie Detwiler at 5:37 PM. Present were Vice Chair Anne Greene, Treasurer James Kelliher, and members David DeGhetto, Nancy McBride, and Lily Cleveland. Alan Prouty and Rachel Wollam were unable to attend. Also in attendance was Facilities Director Ted Nichols. The meeting was held in the Local History room of the Norwell Library.

AGENDA

Chair Detwiler added discussions on the Grange preservation restriction and Historic New England's visit to Jacobs Farmhouse.

Motion by Chair Detwiler to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 14 and 17 meetings were distributed and reviewed.

Motion by Chair Detwiler to accept the Minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting as edited. Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

Motion by Chair Detwiler to accept the Minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS

The following invoices were presented for approval:

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description	Date of Invoice:	Amount:	Account Number:
1. O'Donnell Landscape	Jacobs Farmhouse 8/30-11/30		\$3040.00	81-000-7065-5780
2. National Grid	Electric Service to Jacobs Farmhouse		\$22.21	81-000-7065-5780
3. Buttonwood Renovation	Jacobs West Barn door		\$420.00	81-000-7065-5780
4. Christopher Sullivan - Proofreading & Transcription Services	NHS Minutes of Meeting - November 14, 2023		\$100.00	01-691-0201-5780
5. Gibraltar Stonecraft	Cushing Tomb		\$7800.00	(CPC)
6. TBA Architects	Architectural Services		\$1045.00	15-194-1233-6833
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$12,427.21	

The Commissioners discussed the O'Donnell landscaping bill and concluded it was a reasonable charge for six months of work.

Town Account Christine McCarthy recommends that the Commission pay the CMI Credit bill, which includes accrued collection fees originating from the 85 Mt Blue legal ad. Ms. Greene suggested that the Commission pay but ask Ms. McCarthy to check whether the ad was in fact paid for but the funds misdirected elsewhere.

Motion by Ms. Greene to pay the CMI Credit bill. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

Chair Detwiler asked whether Cross Street Flower Farm should pay the Buttonwood Invoice; Mr. Nichols thinks Town Counsel recommended that the Commission pay based on feedback from Town Counsel; he will double-check and not pay if he hears otherwise. Mr. Kelliher agreed this was the landlord's responsibility.

Motion by Chair Detwiler to approve the invoices as submitted. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

Motion by Mr. Kelliher to approve the CPC invoices as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

Chair Detwiler suggested that the Commission pay the regular monthly bills as they come in and reserve the others for discussion at the next meeting.

Form B Updates

Binders of the updated Form B's are available in the library, Osborne Room, James Library, and Norwell Historical Society; the forms will also be sent for posting on MACRIS. Chair Detwiler suggested that links be posted on the Commission and NHS pages.

HNE Annual Jacobs Visit

Mr. Nichols gave a tour of the property to Dylan Peacock of Historic New England; they inspected the property with much discussion about Cross Street Flower Farm's tenancy, and be sending a report.

Demolition Delay Bylaw Update

Chair Detwiler attended a Planning Board workshop on December 2 to discuss revisions to the Demolition Delay and other zoning bylaws. Planner Ilana Quirk and the PB seemed receptive to the Commission's draft rewrite and would be discussing it further at a later meeting.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT APPLICATION REVIEW

Chair Detwiler checked, and no new applications required Commission review. The review/referral process is still being worked out, and she would eventually like to see a running report that would allow the Commission to track permit statuses.

Norwell Grange Preservation Restriction

Chair Detwiler circulated a draft preservation restriction for the Norwell Grange, written by Gary Thomas and approved by the state, noting that Town Counsel had asked for a vote of support. The restriction is a condition of the CPC funding voted at Town Meeting.

Mr. Kelliher gave his impression of the condition of the building and what it needs, but several members wanted to see the property directly before signing. Chair Detwiler will set up a walkthrough and obtain additional information; an additional quick meeting may be needed if the approval is needed before end of year.

OLD BUSINESS

Cross Street Flower Farm License

Dylan Peacock of HNE also met with the CSFF License task force and conveyed concerns regarding overuse of the West Barn and CSFF retail shop hours. Under the license being drafted, Norwell Historical Society will have first choice of dates for use, then CSFF, then residents. Mr. DeGhetto suggested that the barn also be available to non-residents for a fee. The task force will work out a definition of “overuse.”

Further discussion ensued regarding large event logistics and regular “rest periods” for the barn. Chair Detwiler noted terms were still being negotiated but the parties seemed to be getting onto the same page.

533 Grove Street Update

Owner George Paluzzi has paid the \$10K fine voted by the Commission in November to the Building Department. Chair Detwiler has talked with Town Administrator Darleen Sullivan and is following up with Accounting as to how the Commission might be able to use the funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeGhetto suggested, and all agreed, to add a standing “Member Updates” item to future agendas so members can report on any new developments.

NEXT MEETING

January 9, 2024 – Norwell Town Library, 5:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DeGhetto to adjourn at 7:13 PM. Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the Norwell Historical Commission on _____.
