



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

Norwell Historical Commission Meeting Minutes January 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laurie Detwiler at 5:35 PM. Present were Vice Chair Anne Greene, Treasurer James Kelliher, and members Alan Prouty, David DeGhetto, Rachel Wollam, Nancy McBride, and Lily Cleveland. Also in attendance were Selectman Bruce Graham and Facilities Director Ted Nichols. The meeting was held in the Local History room of the Norwell Library.

AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Detwiler to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 12 meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Motion by Ms. Detwiler to accept the Minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting as edited. Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS

Mr. Kelliher read the invoices received for payment into the record, noting he had not received a bill from National Grid this month.

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description	Date of Invoice:	Amount:	Account Number:
1. Albert Culver	Heating Oil 12/11/23		\$282.21	81-000-7065-5780
2. Verizon	Farmhouse phone line		\$44.18	81-000-7065-5780
3. Lilly Cleveland	Form B Binder books		\$192.68	(CPC)
4. Christopher Sullivan - Proofreading & Transcription Services	NHS Minutes of Meeting - November 14, 2023		\$100.00	01-691-0201-5780
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$619.07	

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

Motion by Mr. Kelliher to approve payment of \$192.68 for Form B printing expenses. Seconded by Ms. Wollam and unanimously voted.

Norwell Grange Preservation Restriction

The Commissioners signed the preservation restriction and the signatures were notarized. Ms. Detwiler notes that the Commissioners recently inspected the property.

Motion by Ms. Detwiler to accept the preservation restriction entitled "Historic Preservation Restriction Agreement between the Norwell Grange Corporation and the Town of Norwell, acting by and through its Historic Commission, concerning the Norwell Grange building at 142 Main Street, Norwell, MA." Seconded by Ms. Greene and unanimously voted.

Demolition Delay Bylaw Update

The update is on the agenda for the next Planning Board meeting; Chair Detwiler plans to attend.

Form B Updates

The four binders for the updated Form Bs are almost ready for delivery, and the forms will be posted on MACRIS next week. Mr. Kelliher has received correspondence from the state indicating they had accepted the updated forms.

Admin Kristin Ford noted that about half of the allocated funds were still available, and the Commission discussed a second phase of forms or other possible uses for the funds.

Jacobs Farmhouse Bid Update

The original request for proposals received one bid, for \$5450K, which exceeds the available funds. Mr. Nichols has talked to Mass Historical about breaking out adjusting the scope of work to include additional bid add-alternates to enable more bid options encourage lower bids; The DCAMM certification requirement may be an additional impediment. A new RFP will be issued within the next few weeks.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT APPLICATION REVIEW

No applications require Commission review.

OLD BUSINESS

Cross Street Flower Farm License

Nikki Bartley present for Cross Street Flower Farm (CSFF) along with Selectman Bruce Graham. Ms. Detwiler noted that the next meeting of the task force working on the license was on January 22, and they were hoping to wrap up the agreement soon. Dylan Peacock of Historic New England had toured the Jacobs property and provided comments regarding use of the property, noting particularly that "Section 7 of the Preservation Restriction is clear that use of the property must be non-commercial" and "To the extent that Historic New England allows commercial activity to occur on site to support the agricultural use of the property, it must remain secondary to the museum/educational/charitable activities that the agreement allows for."

All present discussed the exact extent of commercial activity that would meet the intentions of the agreement. Mr. Graham characterized HNE's comments as "spectacularly uninformative" in that it gave no guidance on what intensity of use would be acceptable; as such, the task force will have to figure out what makes sense and advise HNE. However, he is cautiously optimistic they will come up with an agreement that increases resident access and keeps CSFF going. Ms. Detwiler, however, suggested HNE's comments set very clear parameters regarding usage of the property, particularly that everyday use was too much, and that Historic Society events should take priority. She did not see a lot of overlap in proposed event times, so she agreed it was likely an agreement on the barn use could be reached,

After Mr. Graham left, Ms. Bartley suggested there may be opportunities for the Commission to be part of a CSFF event for increased visibility. She also asked that the Commission notify her any time that the west barn use was on the Commission agenda, as she only learned of several such discussions after the fact. Ms. Wollam pointed out that the Commission did not have dedicated Admin support, as other Town bodies did, to provide such notice but Ms. Detwiler noted that all meetings were open and she was welcome to attend. Ms. Detwiler in turn asked that Ms. Bartley cc her in her emails to the working group for the license.

Ms. Bartley also suggested that maintenance issues in the West Barn were not due to CSFF's use of the property, as she immediately notified Mr. Nichols when she observed any issues and "not having anyone there would be worse." Ms. Detwiler agreed that the Commission would like to see the building in use but noted that its use, as noted in HNE's comments, is secondary to its preservation and it was ultimately the Commission's job to preserve the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Jacobs Farmhouse Usage Calendar

The Norwell Historic Society is proposing a master calendar for usage of the Jacobs Farmhouse; they have already proposed a few of their own events. All present discussed possible events that could be hosted by the Commission, including a Historic Homes educational event, a "farm to table" or harvest dinner, or a "historic farmhouse weekend." Any events would likely need Select Board approval.

Mr. Kelliher is giving an architectural talk at the James Library on January 23.

NEXT MEETING

February 13, 2024 – Norwell Town Library, 5:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Detwiler to adjourn at 6:34 PM.
Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.*

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the Norwell Historical Commission on 2/27/24.

