



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

Norwell Historical Commission Meeting Minutes November 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Anne Greene at 5:30 PM. Present were Treasurer James Kelliher and members Alan Prouty, David DeGhetto, Nancy McBride, and Lily Cleveland. Laurie Detwiler and Rachel Wollam were unable to attend. Also in attendance was Norwell Historical Society President Wendy Bawabe and Facilities Director Ted Nichols. The meeting was held in the Local History room of the Norwell Library.

AGENDA

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to open the meeting. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to take the 588 Grove discussion out of order and approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 3 and 19 meetings were distributed and reviewed. Ms. Cleveland has been dropping off minutes with Ellen McKenna but they are not making it onto the Commission Web site.

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to accept the minutes of the October 3 and 19, 2023 meetings as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kelliher 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. Verizon	Communication Service to Jacobs Farmhouse	November 6, 2023	\$88.37	81-000-7065-5780
2. National Grid	Electric Service to Jacobs Farmhouse	October 29, 2023	\$63.21	81-000-7065-5780
3. Albert Culver	Jacobs Farmhouse Fuel Oil		\$382.35	81-000-7065-5780
4. Christopher Sullivan – Proofreading & Transcription Services	NHS Minutes of Meeting – October 3, 2023	November 10, 2023	\$100.00	01-691-0201-5780
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$633.94	

Mr. Kelliher noted that Gatehouse has sent their invoice to collections; the amount outstanding according to them is \$490.34; however, Ms. McBride noted that admin Kristin Ford looked into their billing and all seems to be paid up on the Town end. All discussed how to find out which address the charge is linked to.

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to approve the invoices as submitted. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description	Date of Invoice:	Amount:	Account Number:
5. Lunn Electric	Article 8 STM FY 2020 Jacobs Farmhouse Restoration		\$3915.40	15-194-8099-6797
6. Home Depot	Article 8 STM FY 2020 Jacobs Farmhouse Restoration		\$34.87 \$34.83	15-194-8099-6797
7. TBA Architects	Architectural Services		\$672.00	15-194-1233-6833
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:			\$4657.10	

Motion by Mr. Kelliher to approve the Jacobs Farmhouse invoices as submitted. Seconded by Vice Chair Greene and unanimously voted.

Cross Street Flower Farm License Agreement

Ms. Greene attended a meeting of the task force drafting a new license agreement between the Town and Cross Street Flower Farm (CSFF) for use of the Jacobs property. The agreement includes provisions for major events and weddings, including that the gross revenue from such events be evenly split between CSFF and the Town. Ms. Greene noted that the group seemed to be set on implementing the new license as drafted and seeing what happens.

Mr. DeGhetto opined that weddings should not be allowed at all on the property; he shared the draft agreement with former CPC Chair Bob Norris, who responded with written comments raising additional concerns regarding annual lease amount, parking, and lease termination.

All discussed coordination of use of the West Barn between CSFF and other groups; all were concerned about the potential for greater wear and tear on the building. Ms. Bawabe suggested that there be a cap on the total number of weekends the barn is used by outside groups, and that Historic New England and the Massachusetts Historical Commission be looped in to help enforce boundaries on use of the property.

Mr. DeGhetto suggested that the Commission draft a position paper on use of the property; the possibility of discussing directly with the Select Board was discussed. Ms. Bawabe will contact Assistant Town Administrator Kim Roy on behalf of the Norwell Historical Society.

Jacobs Farmhouse

Mr. Nichols advised that the “Jacobs Farmhouse & Outbuildings Continued Restoration” project, comprised of barn restoration and farmhouse museum window work, was going out to bid. Design drawings from TBA Architects have been circulated to the Commission. The Town has received a \$65K grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for the project.

Mr. Nichols is also finishing up the punch list tasks for the previous restoration project; work on the bathroom is complete. He has applied to Massachusetts Architectural Access Board for a variance as to door height for the new museum workshop entrance.

Mr. DeGhetto stated that Cross Street Flower Farm is storing boxes in the West Barn and suggested they should be removed.

Form B Updates

Ms. Cleveland indicated the Form B updates have been completed; a hardcopy has been provided for Commission review, and she will provide copies to MACRIS. Ms. Bawabe praised the quality of the new forms and suggested that additional copies be provided for the Town Library, James Library, Town Hall, and Historic Society archives.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT APPLICATION REVIEW

370 River Street

Applicant is constructing an addition in back of the house.

270 Lincoln Street

Applicant is demolishing a garage and accessory structure dating back to the 1960s.

67 Central Street

Applicant is repairing damage to an interior beam with “like” materials.

30 Central

Applicant is repairing damage from an auto collision.

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to find that no decisions are needed for the projects at 370 River, 67 Central, 270 Lincoln, and 30 Central. Seconded by Mr. Kelliher and unanimously voted.

OLD BUSINESS

533 Grove Street

Ms. Greene indicated that Chair Detwiler had drafted a letter allowing property owner to proceed with work on the property if they agree to a fine from the Commission but impose a three-year delay if they do not, and suggested that the Commission take a vote on the matter. All discussed whether the Commission, which is made up of volunteers, or the Building Department had the actual authority to levy fines under the existing bylaw. The impact on neighbors of having the property remain in its current “eyesore” state, and the possibility of screening in the interim was also discussed.

Owner George Paluzzi apologized for the scope of the demolition at the site, stating it was due to a lack of communication with the laborers he hired for the work; he was okay with what was suggested by the Commission at the initial meeting in April and is willing to reconstruct the front view of the property, but would like to protect the structure from the upcoming winter as soon as possible. After some further discussion regarding the plans for the property and concern at its current appearance, the Commissioners requested that Mr. Paluzzi provide architectural plans for the front of the house, including the appropriate dimensions. Once these are received, the Commission will hold a special meeting to review and discuss further action.

Motion by Vice Chair Greene to require that the owner provide an architectural rendering of the front of the house, and that the Board schedule a special meeting to discuss delay or penalty upon receipt. Seconded by Mr. Prouty and unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeGhetto opined that a silver maple on Conservation Commission property on Main Street should be replaced in kind, using their own funds, and this Commission should request this.

NEXT MEETING

Special Meeting regarding 533 Grove - TBD

December 12, 2023 – Norwell Town Library, 5:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice Chair Greene to adjourn at 7:11 PM. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the Norwell Historical Commission on 12/12/23.

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