

MINUTES

Demolition Review Committee - Public Hearing

Meeting 01/25/2024

D. Choate called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Rye Town Hall.

Present were: David Choate, Elizabeth Sanborn, Jenn Madden (alternate - seated)

Also Present was Kara Campbell, Land Use Assistant and Property Owner, Kurt Jackson

Members of the public present were:

Connie Olsen – 236 Locke Rd.

Cynthia Swank and Donna (didn't get last name), North Hampton Heritage Commission

Alex Herlihy, Town Historian

Purpose: Public Hearing for 237 Locke Road.

The Minutes from the 12/15/2023, 12/20/2023 and the 12/28/2023 meetings were approved. E. Sanborn moved, J. Madden 2nd. Unanimous approval.

D. Choate explained the reason for the meeting The Demolition Review Committee ("DRC") found that: a) the building is architecturally significant and historically important; and b) the DRC has 49 days to act and that expires on 1/29/2024.

K. Jackson, owner, provided an overview. He lives next door and wants to take down this structure and build a new house farther back from the road.

D. Choate explained the potential goals and objectives of the DRC and the RHC:

1. Preserve the house intact at another Rye location
2. Dismantle, store, and rebuild at another Rye location
3. Dismantle, store, and rebuild at a non-Rye location
4. Document important interior features before demolition

The Public Hearing was officially opened and a couple of the individuals in attendance made comments.

Discussion ensued around the initial newspaper article about the project. The price tag mentioned of 500-600K may have scared people off, when the likely price is closer to 150-200K. Alex Herlihy, also in attendance and D. Choate will work on options to get the article "re-priced."

D. Choate closed the public meeting.

D. Choate read the regulation with J. Madden explaining the conflict of building a new house on the same lot an existing house exists. A building permit may not be issued until the original house comes down.

J. Madden moved that the DRC has already determined the house is architecturally significant and historically important, but we regretfully grant the demolition permit, but appreciate the owner's willingness to work with members of the DRC and Rye Heritage Commission to find another location for this historic home. Elizabeth Sanborn seconded the motion below:

“The DRC voted that the building to be demolished is of high architectural importance and historical significance so that every effort should be made to save it. Therefore, the approval of the demolition permit is conditioned upon the owner having received all other necessary permits to construct his new house and his cooperating with the Committee to find an alternative to demolition. Further, and assuming no earlier alternative is found, the Committee will work with the Town to try and ensure the house is not demolished until the new house is constructed.”

No further discussion.

E. Sanborn moved that we adjourn the meeting. D. Choate 2nd. Unanimous approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sanborn