

**NEWTON FARM COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST, 2008**

**7:00 pm; barn of Angino Newton Community Farm  
303 Nahanton St.**

The meeting opened about 7:05 pm with the following attendees:

**NFC MEMBERS PRESENT:** P. Lewenberg, Chair; J. Hepburn, V. Schnell, L. Bruyn, J. Harper, C. Lappin, D. Lang

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** R. Shoul, L. Mottard

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** G Rubin, NCF; T. Peter Barrer, NCF; R. Smillie, NCF; S. Fogel, NCF

**Review of on-going barn improvements and window selection:** P. Barrer reported on how the exterior barn renovations (Phase I) were going so far. The original red shingles are exposed now and they do need to be replaced, as expected. The timbers are in better shape than expected, but the foundation needs more work than originally anticipated. New electric lines to the barn (for Phase 2) were also added via a new conduit, which also has capacity for adding telephone and internet lines later on. He's still planning on a December completion. Plans are to make a decision on roofing material next week. The latest plans from TBA Architects were passed out (and will be given to the City). A nice detail on the plan is a way to add insulation from the outside so as to not affect the interior barn timbers. P. Barrar discussed the window recommendations, which are both affordable and meet Historical Commission criteria. The three main windows on the west face are planned to have double, awning-type windows with appropriate exterior and interior mullions, but there will be space bars that will make them look four-paned and traditional to all but the closest inspection. D. Lang, commenting on the plan, said a lot of input and public process went into it and the windows as presented were a good compromise and resolution. V. Schnell asked about the rationale for awning-type windows; they will be able to provide ventilation even on rainy days like today. J. Hepburn reminded the assembly that, at the June meeting, the NFC agreed that we wanted to be consulted before questions were made on color choices, materials and similar questions; so it seemed necessary to do this before the September meeting with regards to the barn's roof. We then took the matter up. The decision of shingles vs. metal is largely financial. Metal, which would be pre-formed aluminum, lasts longer (50+ yrs) but costs more (est. \$12,000), compared to asphalt singles, which will run \$5000-6000 and is guaranteed for a 30-year lifetime. NFC concurred that the choice of material should be left to the NCF board. After discussion, the NFC recommended that, if shingles are chosen, they be the same architectural black or dark gray that matches the house. If metal is possible, NFC would like natural aluminum that will approximate an historical anodized iron ("tin") barn roof (i.e., no pre-tinted color). J. Harper moved that

we accept the window plan and proposals as discussed at the last and tonight's meetings, V. Schnell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. NFC members wanting to view the progress made on the barn renovations can arrange with P. Barrer for a daytime visit.

**Tree removal:** The two Norway maples along Winchester St. were removed in mid-June, after the last objector rescinded objections. Three black walnuts will be planted in the fall near the farm stand; they are being donated and will have to be dug up. A crab apple will go in near the driveway next spring. The city must take out some dead trees on the JCC side of Winchester before the NCF can plant three serviceberries in their place. One unspecified type of tree is also to be planted along Nahanton St. at Ledgebrook.

**Quarterly financial report:** R. Smillie reported no substantive changes from the previous version, other than in the fund-raising category. It was noted that the fall fund-raising generally raises more than the spring. The goal was \$17,000; actual was \$14,000. The 16% fee for construction warranty work (and little is anticipated) will be returned at the end of the 1-year warranty period. D. Lang made a motion to accept the financial report, V. Schnell seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.

**General business & announcements:** After a few corrections and additions were made to the June minutes, V. Schnell made a motion to accept them, L. Bruyn seconded, and the vote passed with 1 abstention (D. Lang, due to his absence from that meeting) V. Schnell expressed thanks to farm volunteers, and P. Barrer especially, for their help in the final scrap removal efforts from the barn. Sale of the scrap brought in about \$500. Cheryl Lappin announced that her term was ending, and though the Farm Commission in many ways was her favorite she would like to step down due to too many other evening, aldermanic commitments. She was roundly thanked for her service and especially commended for the vital aid she was able to provide in working with city officials during the Farm Commission's demanding first year. P. Lewenberg will check into the ordinance for the criteria for her seat's replacement.

After the meeting was adjourned, we visited the new demonstration dwarf fruit tree plot on the adjacent Ledgebrook property, where S. Fogel gave a brief presentation and answered questions about it. R. Smillie then led a tour through the fields as we made our way back to our cars.