Londonderry Demolition Delay Committee

November 26, 2019
Public Hearing
Minutes – 5 Chase Road, Map & Lot 1-62

Present: Sue Joudrey, Representative for Demolition Delay Committee; Richard Canuel, Chief Building Inspector; Laura Gandia, Representative for the Heritage Commission, David Colglazier, Heritage Commission; Ann Chiampa Representing the Historical Society; Doug Fuller, part owner of the property and Mike Fuller, Doug Fullers son and Julie Huss from the Derry News.

The Londonderry Demolition Delay Committee entered into public hearing at 7:00 PM on November 26, 2019 regarding the demolition of the house located at 5 Chase Road, Londonderry, NH.

Richard Canuel stated due to only one member present from the demolition delay committee, he will be sitting as a member of the committee and acting as the chair per the approval of the Town Manager Kevin Smith.

R. Canuel went on to discuss the purpose of the meeting and the criteria that needs to be met to have the public hearing. The house at 5 Chase Road meets the circumstances per the Zoning requirements. The property was viewed by R. Canuel, S. Joudrey & A. Chiampa and it was determined there is some historical significance to the structure. The 45-day stay is to give the committee the opportunity to speak with the owner and the public who have any interest in the property to try to preserve the structure or any part of the structure.

A Chiampa gave a history of the house, stating the Assessing record says the house was built about 1742 and a monument in the southwest corner of the property indicates it was owned by the Anderson family since 1720. Historical documentation for this property, Wiley’s Book of Nutfield, this land was the second division of original Nutfield settler James Anderson and his son Samuel.
It’s also mentioned in the first series of the Londonderry Society green books, Volume 3, page 105 and other numerous pages. The Anderson family property spanned both sides of Mammoth Road and both sides of Chase and Bockes Roads. William Anderson was the last of 8 generations of Anderson family members to live in Nutfield and 7th generation to live in the house. A. Chiampa stated there are no other houses or families in Londonderry with that history.

R. Canuel asked how do we preserve the house with limited resources in which A. Chiampa said she knows the struggle because of a house (Perry house) that was taken down 10 years ago but not able to put it back up, so she knows how tough it is.

A Chiampa said if they can’t save the house she has a photographer with a view camera who will document the house. The photographer is Gary Sampson with many titles in the State of NH.

A. Chiampa went on to say she had contacted contractors who do disassembly or restorations and she did have one that said they would come and take a look at the structure and she also mentioned the NH Preservation Alliance, but again with the owner’s permission. But she did say the photographer is a definite that would do a great job of preserving the structure.

R. Canuel asked A. Chiampa & S. Joudrey if there was anything in the house that was historically significant to preserve that could possibly be salvaged from the house, of course with the owner’s permission. A. Chiampa said there was and would love a chance to go back in.

A. Chiampa asked D. Fuller what he plans on doing with the house. D. Fuller stated the house has been for sale for two years and has been very open about someone coming in and renovating. All contractors and professional restoration contractors will not touch it and there was a restoration cost of $1.3 million. D. Fuller went on to say they have already had monetary offers for the salvageable parts of the house and have made verbal agreements.

D. Fuller went on to state there are some salvageable items such as the staircase and the second floor fireplace, however, his father Calvin Fuller has also made
some commitments to people so he would have to consult with him.

D. Colglazier asked R. Canuel the opinion of the Board allowing demolition delay. R. Canuel stated, as a Building Official, the structure is in very poor condition and is surprised it’s still standing. Just walking through the structure, it would be a “re-build” not a “re-store”. R. Canuel went on to say the committee and the owner can meet after this public hearing to further discuss alternatives and find ways to preserve the home, discuss resources to reach out to or even possibly Federal or State grants to assist. R. Canuel stated he would be happy to sit in on any meetings. Again, this would be a voluntary meeting with the owners.

A Chiampa asked D. Fuller if he would allow the photographer Gary Sampson to come in and take picture in which D. Fuller was in agreement. A. Chiampa asked when they would be demolishing the house and D. Fuller stated no set time. A. Chiampa asked if someone offered the full price for the house, would they accept in which D. Fuller said yes they would.

R. Canuel asked A. Chiampa to contact the photographer and ask when he’s available. He also asked Doug to contact him via email and he would provide the contact information for Sue Joudrey Ann Chiampa & David Colglazier to set up a meeting at the property.

S. Joudrey, per the suggestion of R. Canuel, made a motion to allow opportunity for committee members to meet with the property owner, on site if need be, to discuss either photographing the property or salvaging parts of the house. Second by R. Canuel.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Canuel,
Administrative Assistant/Permit Tech.