

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
450 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103 Wednesday, February 6, 2018 @ 9:30 am
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/533171421>
For audio: Dial In: 1-866-453-0290 Passcode: 207-626-51#
Meeting Minutes**

Call in: Dr. Vernal, Ms. Carnell, Ms. Nelson, Dr. Glaser, Ms. Gilvarg, Chairwoman Nelson,
Dr. Faber, Dr. Woodward, Dr. Jones, Ms. Maher and Mr. Elmore

Staff: Deborah Gaston, Mary Dunne, Jenny Scofield, Liz Shapiro

Guests: Ms. Erin Marchitto - CT Trust for Historic Preservation

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed public comment procedures and the rules and procedures for call-in meetings.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed the conflict of interest policy.

Chairwoman Nelson recused herself from the meeting for Va., Christ Congregational Church, Stony Creek (tabled from January)

IV. Review and Approval Minutes

a. *January 9, 2019 Minutes*

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Jones, to accept the meeting minutes with corrections.

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)(roll call vote)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Church of Christ Congregational (Stony Creek). Request for grant increase for Bell tower restoration. (tabled from January)

Chairwoman Nelson recused herself from the conference call at 9:44 a.m. with Ms. Gilvarg sitting in as Chair. Ms. Gilvarg read the tabled motion from January 2019 meeting.

Chairwoman Nelson was texted by Ms. Shapiro to return to the conference call at 9:53 a.m.

The Historic Preservation Council votes to recall January 2019 tabled motion:

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Woodward, the Historic Preservation Council votes to increase a Historic Restoration Fund (HRF) grant awarded in September 2017 to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown below. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the DECD. The HRF grant is funded by the Community Investment Act and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Gilvarg) (roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne was brief by and filled in for Ms. Lozupone. Ms. Dunne mentioned the applicant had to submit a revised budget and it is in Dropbox for review. The average of bids received within the past few years did not exceed cost estimates, but did exceed the church’s ability to fund raise. Ms. Lozupone did research prior grant recipients and no other applicants were eligible to ask for the full amount of \$100,000.00 which answered Dr. Woodward prior questions from the January meeting.

Ms. Maher thanked Mary for the clarity of this information and stated the revised budget is a smarter budget.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations
None

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report
None

VIII. Archaeological Preserves
None

IX. Threatened Properties
None

X. Preservation Restrictions
None

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office/Museum Activities – Ms. Scofield

Ms. Scofield mentioned last year SHPO started a Fellowship Program. There will be 2 fellowships totaling up to \$2,500 each. The purpose of the program is for training or other activities that will enhance preservation in Connecticut.

The winners will be announced at our SHPO conference. The announcement was posted in our newsletter. The announcement and application can be sent to anyone who has not received it. Last year Elizabeth Holt was sent to D.C. to complete grant training, which has impacted two non-profits organizations.

We also sent Christina Smith from Bridgeport to an intensive landscape history course at the Botanical Gardens in New York. She is using the skills she acquire to apply them to some Olmsted parks in Bridgeport. The deadline this year is a month before the conference.

Ms. Dunne mentioned SHPO's deadline was last Friday and we have received 2 complete proposals. The Committee will move forward with reading them and she could not share anything more at this time.

XII. Report on Museum Properties

SHPO:

Statewide Plan – We've got it, and we're waiting on quotes from the DAS print shop to send it to print.

BOS Partners – Mary and I did the final edits on the BOS grant application. Next steps are to share with SHPO staff for comments; then send to current BOS recipients for review and to schedule a time to have a conference call to go through the revised grant. The grant will still provide operational support, but will be more closely linked to capacity. We will share with the Council in March, if there is time on the agenda, otherwise, we can share in April during our conference call meeting.

Good to Great Grant – Staff is on schedule with the next round of the Good to Great grant applications. The grant application has been revised with input and then further review from the grant review committee members. We are a little behind on announcing the next round of applications, but that will happen later this week or early next week. We'll hold a webinar about the program around March 1, looking to a grant application deadline of June 1 and a mid-July release. We have a bit over a million dollars to award.

CT Freedom Trail – The Freedom Trail committee will have a second in-person meeting on Wednesday February 13 at the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church in New Haven. At the January meeting will delved into a review of the strategic plan and that discussion will continue.

SHPO Annual Conference –

Museums General:

Our in-person staff meeting is Thursday Feb. 6. We'll be reviewing what we learned from Steve Armstrong regarding the social studies standards, creating next steps for initiating new relationships with our nearby schools, and finish up reviewing our program offerings for 2019. We will also be talking about gift shops!

Sloane Museum:

Work at Sloane is now two weeks behind schedule, but the architect has been contacted to offer solutions to this issue. Barb Russ has been looking into options for rehangng or replacing the hand-painted signs in the gallery. Photo imaging is being considered.

New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

Work is being scheduled for repairs to the Visitor's Center and will start in the spring. The new front gate will be installed. The mine will be tested for radon, and we are creating an RFP for a review of the mine shafts to look for changes since the 2014 report.

Upgrades in the New-Gate security system will be implemented as soon as the weather is improved. We will be installing a few security cameras with views that may be accessed via our cell phones.

The painting/roofing projects at Old New-Gate will reopen on April 6th. With luck, only about another month of work.

Prudence Crandall Museum:

We've received a report from Kathy Craughwell-Varda reviewing Interpretation and Space Use Assessment. It's filled with practical recommendations, and Joan DiMartino, our curator, is very excited. This off-season Joan has opened the site for one Sunday each month. In February, the museum was open on 2/3 and had over 35 guests, received over \$100 in donations to the Friends group, and had a lot of press. A reporter even visited. We've also received drone video of the site and a 3D tour that will be accessible online via our website. We worked with Capture LLC who did the footage for Old New-Gate Prison.

Actively working with volunteers and members of the Friends group to advance the museums tour capacity and work with schools.

Henry Whitfield State Museum:

Mike McBride has been pulling together plans for site improvements that will be done in the spring and fall. He has also been working with Morgan Bengel and assisted by Chris Collins, on building a new sign to mark the parking lot for New-Gate. Mike has been invaluable providing phone assistance to both Joanie and Morgan on-site maintenance and the use of the POS system.

XIII. Old Business

There will be a correction of the fact. Correction before we began discussing the item. Item discussion prefaced by the discussion of the facts.

a. Threatened Properties – Mr. Levine

Mr. Levine was in the field meeting with the Mayor of Groton and was not present at this meeting. Ms. Shapiro filled in for Mr. Levine and made the Council aware that will be addressing a CEPA case with the Hale House/Hooker Hotel in Willimantic. Most likely will be an agenda item for the month of March.

XIV. New Business - Ms. Dunne/Ms. Scofield

- a. Review of vised SHPO grant application, Survey and Planning, Partners in Preservation
- b. CEPA workshop – Wednesday February 27th, 9:30a a.m. to 12noon (TimEx)
- c. Staff program overview

Ms. Dunne reviewed the application process discussed all updated and new procedures. All materials were posted in Dropbox. Chairwoman Nelson thanked Ms. Dunne for a job well done. Chairwoman Nelson asked the members that are attending to please bring your binders with you.

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Ms. Erin Marchitto, CT Trust

Ms. Marchitto reported the CT Trust has been doing advisory work with the legislators, keeping them abreast to what we and the value of historic preservation. The Trust is working to increase its funding. We met with Lady Mondosa who is the deputy director of Legislative Affairs and Amanda Clay of the Legislative Affairs Office.

We spoke about how the Community Investment Act helps in their day to day. We also met with Sen. Bob Duff and will be meeting with Sen. Martin Looney on 2/7/19 to discuss Historic Preservation.

Chairwoman Nelson mention the CEPA workshop will be, Wednesday February 27th, 9:30a a.m. to 12 noon.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Maher, Second Dr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

*Next meeting:
Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
2 South, Conference Room F*