

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, December 4, 2019 @9:30 a.m.  
Conference Call Meeting  
Dial in: 1-866-453-0290 Passcode: 207-626-51#**

Council: Ms. Kathy Maher, Mr. Tom Elmore, Chairwoman Sara Nelson, Ms. Karyn Gilvarg, Dr. Walt Woodward, Dr. Fiona Vernal, Ms. Christine Nelson, Mr. Jeff Partridge, Ms. Glaser and Christine Nelson

Staff: Elizabeth Shapiro, Deborah Gaston, Mary Dunne and Todd Levine

Guests: Ms. Mary Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance  
Ms. Jane Montanaro, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Chairwoman Nelson summarized the public comment procedures for the conference call.

**III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest**

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed the conflict of interest policy for the conference call. *None noted.*

**IV. Review and Approval Minutes**

**a. November 6, 2019 Minutes**

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Woodward, to approve the November 6, 2019 meeting minutes with corrections.

*(Y-4, N-0, Abstaining - 5) (Roll call vote)*

**V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items**

**a. Survey and Planning, First Ecclesiastical Society of East Haddam, East Haddam**

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Gilvarg, the Historic Preservation Council votes to increase the Survey and Planning Grant awarded on May 8, 2019 to the First Ecclesiastical Society of East Haddam. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – S. Nelson) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Dunne presented this application as recommended by staff. First Ecclesiastical was awarded this grant in May 2019. Ms. Dunne explained the request for additional funding for environmental testing, the cost of which will be matched by the applicant. The current grant is still open and additional funds may be awarded with the Council's approval.

- VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations
- VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report
- VIII. Archaeological Preserves
- IX. Threatened Properties
- X. Preservation Restrictions
- XI. **Report on State Historic Preservation Office Museum Activities – Liz Shapiro**

**SHPO:**

Erin Fink, formerly of the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, will be starting this Friday (12/13) in the position of architectural preservationist.

SHPO staff has begun regular meetings to review the statewide preservation plan. Intentional work to implement the plan has been difficult due to our staff vacancy.

SHPO has received verbal approval to refill Liz Shapiro’s previous position, Director of Historic Preservation/Museums. This position will be a management position, and will fill the traditional role assigned to the deputy SHPO.

DECD update: Assistant Commissioner David Kooris will be leaving the agency in early January. This is an appointed position.

**State Archaeologist update:**

Two final candidates have been identified for the position of State Archaeologist. They are Sarah Sportman, a senior archaeologist with the Archaeological and Historical Services in Storrs, and Heather Rockwell, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. There will be public times to meet the candidates.

**Museums General:**

The museum staff held their first staff retreat in Hartford in November. Staff reviewed the end of the season and set an agenda for the coming months of planning.

**Sloane Museum:**

The construction at the Eric Sloane Museum continues to remain on schedule. The rebuilt Noah Blake Cabin has been completed, with just a few finishing touches to go. A retirement party was held on November 23 for Barbara Russ. The museums have received permission to backfill this position, and the position listing is awaiting approval and should be posted within a week. Barb’s last day will be January 31. The grand reopening of the museum will be held on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine**

New-Gate's seasonal statistics are available. The museum hosted 10,600 visitors, with 825 of these affiliated with student groups. Gift shop sales were \$14,500 and admission sales were \$50,000, with a total revenue of \$65,000. Staff has been tracking visitation by group, so we know who is visiting, when they are visiting and where they are coming from. Unsurprisingly, the busiest two months are August followed closely by July. Halloween is the biggest revenue generator. The office spent \$65,136 on improvements to the site (including visitor center repairs and repainting) above and beyond regular operating expenses such as trash removal and yard work. Morgan Bengel has a full plan of new initiatives for 2020.

### **Prudence Crandall Museum:**

The Prudence Crandall Museum is now closed, probably for the next year, for renovations. Curator Joan DiMartino has been supervising the inventory, packing and storage of the items in the museum. The museum staff is very grateful to the staff at the State Library which has volunteered to house the collection of rare books during the restoration. Joan and Liz will be working to plan events during the time the museum is closed, and to create the new interpretive plan.

### **Henry Whitfield State Museum:**

The Whitfield Museum staff hosted *Harvesting History* last weekend, and is presently preparing for the Firelight Festival, which is held in conjunction with the Guilford Tree Lighting on Friday, 12/6. In addition, staff have been cross-checking their new collections software and working to facilitate the DECD Audit, while managing pre-winter site improvements, including the removal of dead branches and several insecure trees, and upgrades to electrical work that included trenching and new wiring.

## **XIII. Old Business**

### **a. CEPA updates – Todd Levine**

No updates

Chairwoman Nelson asked if any of the potential CEPA items presented at the last meeting are tracking towards the January 2020 agenda. Ms. Shapiro replied it does not look any will be coming up in January. (Mr. Levine was unavailable for consultation.)

## **XIV. New Business**

### **a. State Archaeologist candidates update – Cathy Labadia**

Ms. Labadia encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to meet the two final candidates for state archaeologist, and to share their opinions with the search committee. There are two opportunities to meet the candidates: each one will give a formal public lecture at the UCONN Storrs campus and they also will be available for an informal question and answer event at the UCONN Hartford campus.

### **Sarah Sportman**

Sarah Sportman is currently a senior archaeologist with Archaeological and Historical Services in Storrs, CT and a research affiliate of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. She graduated with a PhD from UCONN in 2011. Sarah has wide-ranging excavation experience at both historic and prehistoric sites in the northeastern United States and is an expert in zoo archaeology.

Thursday, December 12, 2019:

Public lecture 3:00-4:30 Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library, UConn Storrs Campus

Friday, December 13, 2019:

Q&A: 10:00-11:30 am Hartford Times Building, Room 214, 10 Prospect Street, Hartford

### **Heather Rockwell**

Heather Rockwell is a Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer at the Wyoming State Historical Preservation Office. She received her PhD from the University of Wyoming in 2014. Heather is an expert in hunter-gatherer mobility and lithic technology of New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. She has worked in Cultural Resource Management, federal and state government and university settings.

Monday, December 16:

Public lecture 3:00-4:30 Class of 1947 Room, Babbidge Library, UConn Storrs Campus

Tuesday, December 17, 2019:

Q&A: 10:00-11:30 am Room 214, Hartford Times Building, 10 Prospect Street, Hartford

## **XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies, Ms. Jane Montanaro, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation**

Ms. Montanaro announced Ms. Erin Fink, formerly of the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, will be starting in the position of Architectural Preservationist for Historic Preservation (SHPO) on Friday December 13, 2019.

As of January 1, 2020, the CT Trust will be known as “Preservation Connecticut” after 45 years. The mission statement will remain the same. For the next month, CT Trust will be launching a new logo, brand and an identity with a more modern approach.

### **Ms. Mary Falvey – Hartford Preservation Alliance**

Ms. Falvey noted that while the legislature is out of session, HPA is working on their 2020 agenda and expecting a pretty quiet session. There will be a CIA lobbying day in March 2020.

Chairwoman Nelson asked when and if we have extra time on an agenda, whether there are any topics or programs on which Council members would like to have any additional information.

Dr. Faber expressed an interest in the Certified Local Government Program (CLG).

Chairwoman Nelson reminded the Council that in case of inclement weather for our upcoming January 8, 2020 meeting, we can revert to a conference-call meeting.

**XVI. Public Forum**

**XVII. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Nelson to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.*

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – S. Nelson (Roll call vote))*

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

***Next meeting:  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 9:30 a.m.  
2 South, Room H***