

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, October 2, 2019 @9:30 a.m.  
Conference Call Meeting  
Dial in: 1-866-453-0290 Passcode: 207-626-51#**

Council: Dr. Vernal, Mr. Partridge, Dr. Faber, Ms. Carnell, Ms. Maher, Dr. Woodward, Mr. Elmore, Ms. Gilvarg and Dr. Glaser

Staff: Doug Royalty, Elizabeth Shapiro, Jenny Scofield (9:57 a.m.), Marena Wisniewski, Deborah Gaston, Todd Levine (10:10 a.m.), Mary Dunne and Cathy Labadia (10:17 a.m.)

Guests: Ms. Mary Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance  
Ms. Jane Montanaro, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation  
Mr. Tod Bryant, Spireworth School  
Dr. Daryn Reyman-Lock, Spireworth School

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

In Chairwoman Nelson's absence, Ms. Gilvarg summarized the public comment procedures for the conference call.

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

Ms. Gilvarg reviewed the conflict of interest policy for the conference call in Chairwoman Nelson's absence. *None noted.*

**IV. Review and Approval Minutes**

**a. September 4, 2019 Minutes - Transcription**

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Woodward, to table September 4, 2019 meeting minutes transcript due to trouble opening the PDF document in Dropbox.

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – K. Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)*

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

### ***a. Survey and Planning, North Congregational Church, Woodbury***

On a motion by Dr. Faber, second by Ms. Maher, The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the North Congregational Church in the amount of \$17,950.00. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the North Congregational Church upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – K. Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Dunne presented the application as recommended by staff. A HRF grant was completed a year ago for the steeple repair. An excellent job was done on the steeple repairs. As a reminder, this building is under an easement, so all work will be closely inspected, grant funded or not. The purpose of this grant is basic ADA compliance to hire a consultant with specialized knowledge to determine options for the placement of an access elevator, and a consultant to assess the condition of the metal roof and determine replacement plans and costs. Design development level drawings will be developed. Three architects were consulted to help determine the cost of this project, and the congregation understands the bidding process. They also have the funds to match if they go over budget.

Dr. Glaser mentioned a statement of significance should be added to the application narrative to help clarify why the grant is being awarded. Ms. Dunne agreed and will make sure the information is added.

Ms. Maher added this church was started by a predominantly female congregation. Ms. Gilvarg asked if a HRF grant funding was received for the steeple and if there was an easement that went with it. Ms. Maher noted the word “lien” is used and it should be a “easement”.

Ms. Maher asked what type of elevator is the church considering. Ms. Dunne answered that the purpose of the grant is to have knowable professional review to evaluate the possibilities. SHPO will have the final approval, and the architects will provide options.

Mr. Elmore asked for a breakdown of the budget narrative. Ms. Dunne clarified what the budget entailed and that the project was in its first phase. Ms. Gilvarg added the roof was included in the budget.

## State Register of Historic Places Nominations

### **a. State Register Nomination, Spireworth School, 158-160 Carlisle St., New Haven**

One a motion by Ms. Maher, second by Dr. Partridge, The Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Spireworth School, located at 158-160 Carlisle Street, New Haven, to the State Register of Historic Places. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.  
(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – K. Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Wisniewski presented the nomination as recommended by staff. This property falls under Criterion 1, Education, as a trade school built for children with physical and intellectual disabilities. Mr. Todd Bryant and Ms. Daryn Raymond-Locke were on the call representing the nomination. The planned use of the property will be as a community center for the youth in the surrounding area.

Ms. Glaser commented that the nomination was well written, but the footnotes and bibliography needs to be edited to clean up inconsistencies.

Mr. Bryant added those corrections can be made. This is a package deal with mitigation documentation for 22 Gold St., New Haven. He and Ms. Raymond-Locke worked on this nomination. Ms. Raymond-Locke added there was a lot of history uncovered working on this incredible project.

Dr. Woodward asked if there was any intention to reinterpret the space to tell the story of its original use. It would be nice if the previous use of the building was documented. Mr. Bryant replied not as far as he knew.

Mr. Bryant and Ms. Raymond-Locke thanked the staff and Council, then left the call at 9:59 a.m.

### **b. State Nomination for Jacob Pardee House, 341 Townsend Avenue, New Haven has been withdrawn**

Ms. Gilvarg read the motion and explained the process of a nomination withdrawal. The item was called on a motion by Ms. Maher, second by Ms. Glaser. Ms. Gilvarg then called for a motion to withdraw the item without prejudice. That motion was made by Ms. Maher first and second by Dr. Faber.  
(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – K. Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)

**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, Mary Dunne and Cathy Labadia**

**SHPO:**

Architectural Preservationist position update:

The second position listing closed last week, and there are several well-qualified candidates. Interviews are being scheduled by HR for October 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note, as mentioned last week, the Historic Homes tax credit application process reopened on October 1.

Doug Royalty will present a brief update on the Hurricane Sandy program deliverables. Funding from this program has enabled SHPO to create a large number of resources that are designed to provide new information as we confront issues of resiliency and disaster response in regard to historic preservation.

As mentioned at September's meeting, SHPO will be jointly sponsoring a one day conference with UCONN School of Law, "Historic and Green – a New Climate Agenda" on Friday, January 24, at UCONN Law School Starr Hall, from 8:30 to 3:30. The registration page is about to be live.

The conference overview states:

Historic preservation is, at its core, an exercise in sustainability. Older buildings are often energy-efficient, made with renewable materials (such as wood or brick), and longer-lasting. Moreover, maintaining an existing structure avoids the environmental costs of replacing it with new construction. Despite their environmental benefits, Connecticut's historic places face unprecedented threats, including climate change and needless demolition. Preservationists must recognize that in the face of these threats, not everything can be preserved. At the same time, preservationists must build consensus for changes to law and policy that protect historic places in service of environmental goals. This UConn Law School conference, cosponsored by Preservation Connecticut and the State Historic Preservation Office, aims to craft a statewide policy agenda that recognizes preservation as a fundamental environmental value. Panels will focus on: Documenting the status of and threats to historic sites; reducing potential damage to historic places through performance, construction, and siting standards; and Ensuring that disaster response encompasses historical and cultural resources at all levels, from planning to recovery.

Starting in October, SHPO staff will be reviewing the strategic preservation plan to create next steps for 2020-2022.

As a note, Liz Shapiro will be attending the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Past Forward* Conference in Denver, and will be out of the office from October 9 to October 16. Many colleagues from the CT Trust will also be attending, so a strong CT turnout.

**Museums General: The museums will close for the season on November 1.**

**Sloane Museum:**

Construction officially began on Monday, September 30. Right now, we are planning the reinstallation of museum exhibits, with the addition of two new exhibits, one at the entrance and another in the “gallery” space. One will talk about Eric Sloane, his life and his very personal vision for the museum and the other will look at the evolution of the Noah Blake Cabin.

There will be a retirement party for long-time staff member Barbara Russ on Saturday November 23 in Kent.

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

About 250 people attended the “Escape from Old New-Gate” program on September 21. New-Gate prides itself on creating partnerships with local businesses and nonprofit/community groups, and a new partnership has been created with Smokey Water Rib Company, a restaurant in East Granby. They will be selling food at the site, and their first event was the Escape event on September 21. Sales were brisk, and the restaurant owners are excited about serving food at the two Halloween events on Saturday October 12 and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Prudence Crandall Museum:**

As noted, the museum will close to the public on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Joan DiMartino and seasonal staff member Erica Cialella have been working to dismantle the exhibits, pack collections items for storage, and plan for the closing “Prudence Crandall Takes a Sabbatical” event on October 20 from 2-4 pm. At present, we are unsure of when the actual construction work will begin, but we are optimistic that it will start after the first of the year.

Following the closing, the museum staff will delve deeply into the reimagined interpretation of the museum, which will focus on educational equity, using the stories of Crandall, Harris and all the students as a discussion focal point.

**Henry Whitfield State Museum:**

Mike McBride and Chris Collins have been working with all the museums to design, create and install signage. This has been an overlooked issue for many years, and McBride’s expertise as a site manager has been incredibly helpful. The Whitfield Museum goes into high gear for its November and December events, although staff revert to a regular M-F schedule starting November 1.

**XIII. Old Business**

**a. CEPA updates on Howe Street properties and Cogshell-Robinson House, Colchester and The Grange – Todd Levine**

Mr. Levine reported that he has just this morning received a response from the Howe Street property owner’s lawyers with edits to the proposed memorandum of agreement.

Negotiations are ongoing.

The MOA with the owner of the Cogshell-Robinson House in Colchester is in place. There will be no action on the building taken until May 2020.

Brad Schide from the Connecticut Trust will present a new design at the next HPC meeting in November. These designs have not been approved by SHPO.

Levine will be meeting with town of Bridgewater in November to review the progress on The Grange. Ms. Gilvarg asked if anything was going on with the Prince Street school building in New Haven. Levine responded that he did a walk through on the property a year ago and still has not received drawings. SHPO cannot sign off on it, the rehab has not been approved.

#### **XIV. New Business**

Dr. Woodward and Ms. Glaser will be sending updates on their contact information.

Ms. Labadia announced the award of an American Civil Rights grant from the National Park Service to prepare National Register nominations for properties in Connecticut associated with Morehouse students who worked in Connecticut's tobacco industry. One of the most prominent students was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Woodward mentioned he was contacted by someone who has been researching and promoting the Old Bay Path Colonial Trail that ran from Connecticut to Boston in the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are interested in creating a heritage trail and were looking for a contact at SHPO.

##### **a. Hurricane Sandy project update – Doug Royalty**

Mr. Royalty presented an update on the Hurricane Sandy project. Project activities ended on September 30, 2019. Reporting will be underway through the end of 2019.

#### **XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies**

Ms. Jane Montanaro, Connecticut Trust, announced that the *Saving Historic Black Churches* panel discussion was rescheduled from October to the spring of 2020 to allow for better planning of the event. This program was designed to complement the \$15,000 maintenance and repair grant program designated for religious properties that is managed by the Trust. Pre-applications are due December 1, 2019 and Trust circuit riders will be in the field working with applicants.

The Trust is accepting letters of inquiry for the 1772 Foundation Partnership Grant Program which are maintenance and repair grants for historical societies, museums and non-profits. The Trust has distributed about \$1.7 million dollars in private funding for 175 projects within the past 8 years of the program. Because of its success in Connecticut, the program will soon open to all New England states.

**XVI. Public Forum**

**XVII. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Ms. Maher, second Ms. Christine Nelson to adjourn the meeting.*

*Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.*

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – K. Gilvarg) (Roll call vote)*

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

*Next meeting:*

*Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 9:30 a.m.*

*2 South, Room H*