

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERATION COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017  
9:30 am  
450 Columbus Boulevard, Fourth Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Ms. Gilvarg, Chairwoman Nelson, Dr. Jones, Dr. Faber, Dr. Glaser, Ms. Maher, Dr. Partridge, Dr. Woodward and Ms. Kane

Staff: Liz Shapiro, Marena Wisniewski, Doug Royalty, Mary Dunne, Deborah Gaston, Todd Levine, Jenny Scofield, Alyssa Lozupone and Cathy Labadia

Guest: Mr. Ty Tryon – Ancient Bury Ground, Jane Montanaro – CT Trust, Aileen Bastos – Croskey, Leslie Casgrove – First Congregational Church of Barkhamsted, Mary Falvey and Sherma Rismay - Hartford Preservation Alliance

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation was called to order at 9:40 am.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Chairwomen Nelson reviewed public comment procedures.

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

Chairwoman Nelson asked the members if there were any potential perceptions of conflict of interest with any agenda items being brought before the Council:

Chairwoman Nelson – Vc. Barkhamsted Church

Ms. Maher – Vc. Barkhamsted Church

Dr. Woodward identified himself as an ex-officio board member of the Ancient Burying Ground - Va.

**IV. Review and Approval Minutes**

*September 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes*

Minutes approved with corrections

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Jones

*(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Kane)*

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

***a. Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc. Research to Support Content***

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Jones, the Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Partners In Preservation Grant funded by the Community Investment Act in the amount of \$10,000.00. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.*

*(Y-8 N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)*

Ms. Dunne presented the application for funding this project recommended by staff. She explained that a scholar would be hired to help with the original research project begun by middle students years ago. Dr. Woodward expressed general concern about the project, especially in light of the lack of research evidence to suggest that the project is viable, even when considering the non-traditional research sources. There was strong support for the application, but the council feels there are gaps in the roadmap for work. Ms. Dunne suggested that the RFP for the consulting scholar be written in a way that will address the Council's concerns. There was a suggestion for any interested Council members to lend their expertise to this project. Dr. Woodward, Dr. Partridge and Dr. Glaser volunteered. Can ask Warren Perry and Dr. Feder – CCSU as well. Dr. Woodward suggested the language be modified to make it a phased grant with 1/3 to fund a methodology and prospectus of the project and subject to Council's approval, the rest of the funds will be released for the implementation. Dr. Partridge seconded this amendment. All were in favor.

***b. Branford Historical Society, Historic Resources Inventory***

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council approves the Survey and Planning Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)*

Ms. Dunne presented the application, commenting that the current survey is about 30 years old and the office would like to stay current, and further that the old survey was not comprehensive. It was noted that the geographical resources to be surveyed are located along the proposed high speed rail line. Dr. Jones noted that a restricted geographical area was a concern. Dr. Faber asked how many resources are located along that area and Chairwoman Nelson asked whether the entire town been surveyed in the old survey. The staff's opinion is that geographic area in the application can stand alone. Ms. Kane mentioned it would have been nice to see photos of the area, and that rising sea level concerns had not been addressed. There was some discussion as to whether the \$30,000 grant could cover a town-wide survey. Ms. Scofield noted that survey costs are approximately \$150/property. The Council accepted Ms. Dunne's suggestion that she would visit the area and view the currently surveyed areas (approximately 700 properties) and the proposed survey areas to make a determination as to what areas, if any, could be reasonably added to the grant proposal. The Council decided to delegate any further decisions regarding the surveyed areas to staff.

**c. Barkhamsted Center Church, Roof repairs**

*Chairwoman Nelson and Ms. Maher recused themselves at 10:32 a.m. Ms. Gilvarg assumed the chair.*

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council approves the Historic Restoration Fund Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-6, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Lozupone presented the application and recommended the project for funding. She noted that the work items for the grant were informed by a conditions assessment funded by a SHPO grant. The engineers recommended the church remain empty until repairs are complete. Ms. Leslie Casgrove was present and thanked the Council for their time and consideration. She lauded the SHPO office for their assistance from the beginning of the project in 1988, and specifically noted that the preservation restrictions on the building have really helped. “It’s been a wonderful partnership.”

*Chairwoman Nelson and Ms. Maher returned to the meeting at 10:36 a.m.*

**VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations**

**a. Neiditz Building, 111 Pearl Street, Hartford, CT**

On a motion by Dr. Jones, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Neiditz Building at 111 Pearl Street in Hartford on the State Register of Historic Places. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Scofield presented the application and explained the background, citing a lack of quorum at the September Historic Preservation Review Board meeting as the sole reason this property had yet to be voted onto the National Register. Ms. Scofield then presented a synopsis of the discussion about the building at the State Review Board, including the fact that they had been waiting for a year to get on the HRB agenda. Ms. Maher asked why it took so long for this nomination to be considered. Ms. Scofield noted that it was sometimes faster, but applications may be delayed due to the National Park noticing period of 30-90 days, and the need to have a scholarly document ready 90 days prior to the meeting. Ms. Carmelich mentioned that tax credits are being pursued and they are next in line. If this property is approved for the State Register now, they can submit their tax credit application and reserve credits for this year.

**VII. Threatened Properties**

*None*

**VIII. Preservation Restrictions**

*None*

**IX. Report on State Historic Preservation Office Activities – Mary Dunne/Cathy Labadia**

Ms. Dunne mentioned SHPO offices have successfully moved to 450 Columbus Boulevard in downtown Hartford. There was some confusion over Board and Council member's parking. Will verify the parking validation procedures with Tracey Rooslund. Ms. Newman-Scott, Director of Culture, Historic Preservation /Arts will be returning to the office on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. The State wide strategic plan is moving ahead working with our consultants. Currently preparing a draft, and eventually the plan must be submitted to the Park Service for approval. What we have found are that there are many people who are not aware of SHPO resources. The draft plan will be posted in Dropbox at the end of the month.

**X. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro**

Ms. Shapiro reported the museum season ends on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Over 325 people visited the Eric Sloane Museum on October 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> during the CT Antique Machinery Festival. The SHPO office is working with the Friends of Eric Sloane on the restoration of the Noah Blake cabin, a wood cabin built by Eric Sloane himself, as a representation of the fictional home-place of Noah Blake in Sloane's book, *Diary of an Early American Boy*. Special thanks to Ms. Labadia and Mr. Levine for their help.

The Prudence Crandall House was recently featured as one of four sites in New England that best add content to the story of African-American women in US history. An OpEd piece appeared in the *New York Times* about the project which its creators are calling "FemTour."

The Henry Whitfield State Museum opened its *Holidaze* Exhibit last weekend.

Old New-Gate Prison hosted The Jolly Beggars (a Celtic music group) on September 23, over 225 tickets were sold and the event received rave reviews. We are currently working in conjunction with Old New Gate Inc, a nonprofit, to present a Halloween festival on Oct 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Bat Team from DEEP (wildlife biologists) have made it possible through a grant to install bat-friendly gates at the mine entrance. Now bats can come and go from the cave with ease. The staff position for Old New-Gate will be posted sometime in October. The job description is written and has been approved.

Winter will be a great time to begin to rethink the missions of all four museums, and consider how the museums can use history to inform people about the world today.

We expect to have building assessments completed for all four sites by the end of the month. The prison structure is now stabilized, and there are only a few roadblocks to having the museum open on a regular schedule, which should be completed by next year. There will be projects (both preservation and restoration, as well as painting and roofing going on next year.

**XI. Old Business**

**a. Certificate of Appreciation for Wilson Hinsdale Faude**

*A motion was by Ms. Maher, second by Dr. Woodward to accept the Certificate of Appreciation for Wilson Hinsdale Faude, past council member.*

Chairwoman Nelson will arrange for the document to be framed, and will write a letter on behalf of the Council to Mr. Faude's wife and family.

**XII. New Business**

**Milford – Peter Prudent House**

There is concern about possible demolition. Mr. Levine has set up a meeting with the CT Trust staff.

Dave Ransom passed away, he was 100 years old. There will be a program of remembrance at the Stowe Center on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**XIII. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies**

Ms. Jane Montanaro reported that the CT Trust has filed the CEPA case in New London, with Attorney Philip Walter representing. She noted that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has signed on for the case. The case will be heard on October 30, 2017.

*A motion was made by Dr. Woodward, second Ms. Maher to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.*

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

*Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 9:30 a.m.  
450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103*