

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

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017
9:30 am
450 Columbus Boulevard, Fourth Floor
Hartford, CT 06103**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ms. Gilvarg, Chairwoman Nelson, Dr. Glaser, Dr. Partridge, Dr. Woodward, Ms. Newman-Scott

Called In: Ms. Kane, Dr. Jones, Dr. Faber, Ms. Maher and Jane Montanaro (CT Trust)

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

Guest: Mallory Bordonaro - CCSU Student, Paul Dickson – CCSU Student, Shannon LaPoint – CCSU Student

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Historic Preservation was called to order at 9:35 am.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairwomen Nelson reviewed public comment procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed the Code of Conflict and Conflict of Interest statements. No conflicts were noted.

IV. Review and Approval Minutes

October 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved with corrections

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

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

None

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

a. Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Hall, 26 Main St., Stonington, CT

On a motion by Dr. Jones, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Hall, 26 Main Street in Stonington on the State Register of Historic Places. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Wisniewski presented the application which falls under the Criterion 1. Ms. Wisniewski then read a letter of support for the project from Mr. Howard Taylor.

Comments from the Council, initiated by Ms. Maher, expressed a general concern that the application does not address the significance of the property from when it was built in 1830 until the time the property became the Holy Ghost Society Hall in 1929. Ms. Scofield clarified that this property is already included in a National Register District, but this is an individual nomination that will be clearly linked to the National Register District. Ms. Nelson asked if a paragraph could be added that gives context to the property from 1830-1930. Ms. Maher agreed that the early history of the building is a critical aspect of the building's story.

Ms. Scofield noted that the State Review Board is in the process of planning to update less complete register listings.

On a motion by Dr. Partridge, with second by Dr. Woodward, the application was approved with the addition of information prior to 1929 be added.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

VII. Threatened Properties

None

VIII. Preservation Restrictions

None

IX. Report on State Historic Preservation Office Activities – Kristina Newman-Scott

Ms. Newman-Scott mention the State budget was passed. Ten million dollar sweep over two years, \$5 million year one and an additional \$5 million year two. SHPO has received its first quarter allocation, although there is uncertainty as to what the actual SHPO allocation will look like at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Newman-Scott reported that the office will be reviewing grant guidelines starting in November. Chairwoman Nelson asked about the status of the Statewide Preservation Plan. The plan is 60% complete, and we are working with the consultants to come up with a final time line for the project.

SHPO will be hosting a 2018 conference, possibly on May 17th. Council members will be informed as soon as the date is set.

New Haven Preservation Trust, sponsored by SHPO, will present Preserving & Celebrating African American Historic Places: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Dixwell Avenue United Church of Christ in New Haven, CT. The speaker will be Mr. Brent Leggs, Senior field Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is a free event open to the public. To register, email info@nhpt.org or call (203) 562-5919.

Ms. Newman-Scott will look into why additional members of the HPC have not been appointed.

X. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro reported the museum season which ends on October 29th. Old New-Gate Prison hosted a Halloween event over two days on October 27 and 28, over 1200 people attended. The Friends groups for both the Eric Sloane Museum and the Prudence Crandall Museum have been very active lately. At Sloane, they are working on the restoration of the Noah Blake cabin. At Crandall, they have been proactively discussing the 2018 museum season, the first without Curator Kaz Kozlowski, who will retire February 1. The Henry Whitfield Museum will host a harvest history event on Friday, November 24th, and a festival of lights on Friday, December 1.

During the closed season, the museums will be meeting for planning and strategic direction meetings, at least once per month, in Hartford. Ms. Shapiro is in the midst of hiring a site administrator for Old New-Gate Prison. The position closed on November 14th.

XI. Old Business – Ancient Burial Ground and grants for historic research - Walter Woodward

This item was added to agenda by unanimous consent.

Dr. Woodward noted that there were two concerns he had that were illustrated in last month's Ancient Burial Ground grant discussion.

The first, SHPO should have a real plan in place to review and disseminate all historic research that has been paid for by SHPO grant funds. Applicants should need to present a plan for research dissemination. Dr. Woodward noted that there is no PhD academic historian on the SHPO staff, although he noted that the historians on the Council could play a role in these projects from the initial application. Dr. Woodward is pleased that SHPO will be reviewing our grant program.

The second issue noted was concern about the academic rigor for those grant applicants that are doing historic research.

December's HPC meeting will be a "GoTo Meeting". Information regarding participation will be sent. Dr. Woodward will not be present.

XII. New Business

None

XIII. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies - Jane Montanaro – CT Trust

Ms. Montanaro reported that the CT Trust is currently working on a five year strategic plan and hopes to have a draft document by the end of the year.

Mr. Glaser reported that the CPA half-day conference has been rescheduled for December 1, 2017 9:30 a.m.-12noon, at the Hartford Lyceum. They are currently pursuing sponsorship.

A motion was made by Dr. Woodward, second Ms. Maher to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

Next meeting will be a “GoTo Meeting”, Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 9:30 a.m.