

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairwoman Nelson, Dr. Faber and Dr. Jones
Call in: Ms. Kane (left meeting at 10:30), Ms. Gilvarg, Ms. Maher and Dr. Glaser

Staff: Julie Carmelich, Mary Dunne, Deborah Gaston, Cathy Labadia, Todd Levine, Alyssa Lozupone, Doug Royalty, and Marena Wisniewski,

Guests: Mr. John Rice, Thompson Historical Society
Mr. Joe Lindley, Thompson Historical Society
Mr. Sean Nugent, Preston Redevelopment Agency

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:46 a.m. Ms. Nelson reviewed the conference call attendees.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairwomen Nelson reviewed public comment procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed the conflict of interest policy. Chairwoman Nelson will recuse herself for Vb. Town of South Windsor: Architectural Plan and Specifications for Priest Farmhouse.

IV. Review and Approval Minutes

December 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Minutes tabled until February 2018 meeting

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Jones

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Town of Thompson, Historic Restoration Fund Grant – Ellen Larned Memorial Building (Roof repair)

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Jones, the Historic Preservation Council votes to approve the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant funded by the Community Investment Act and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development to the below-listed applicant in the amount of \$50,000.00.

*Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.
(Y-5 N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)*

Ms. Lozupone introduced the application. Ms. Lozupone has met with the Thompson Historical Society on several occasions to discuss this application. The organization is a good steward of the property and advocate of preservation and she applauds their efforts. Dr. Faber noted that item #22 was checked incorrectly. Ms. Lozupone clarified that the building is in a national register district, but is not in a local district. Dr. Gilvarg asked what the life expectancy would be for the new roof tiles. Mr. Joe Lindley responded, the current roof has lasted 114 years and is on its 115th year. These tiles should last another 100 years.

b. Town of South Windsor, CT - Architectural Plans and Specifications for Priest Farmhouse

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council votes to award a Certified Local Government, Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, funded by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to the below listed applicant in the amount of \$20,000.00. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-4, N-0, Abstaining – Jones)

Chairwoman Nelson recused herself at 9:56 a.m. The meeting was turned over to Dr. Jones. Ms. Dunne presented the application. A few years ago SHPO funded the 174-page feasibility study for the entire acreage of Priest Farm, a copy of which is in Dropbox. The study was prepared by GNCB Structural Engineers, Nelson Architects and Elmore Design who specializes in landscape studies. There were 3 phases recommended to move forward. The first phase consists of rehabbing the historic buildings on the site. Staff are excited that the town is moving forward with this project. This grant will be federally funded. These are the type of development projects the National Park Service likes to see. Jenny McCrow, Andy Perturno and Michele Like, Town Planner, were present at the meeting.

Ms. Maher thanked Ms. Dunne for adding the feasibility report to the application, it was very nicely done.

Mr. Andy Paturna, of South Windsor, mentioned Phase 1 will have a resident farmer lease this space and it will revert to its original purpose.

Chairwoman Nelson returned to the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and resumed the Chair.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

a. State Register Nomination for the Glenn B. and Mary C. Fitzgerald House, 136 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

On a motion by Dr. Jones, Second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Glenn B. and Mary C. Fitzgerald House to the register. (Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Wisniewski presented the application, noting that staff recommends approval to the state register under Criterion 2 at the local level as a modernist movement residential structure. The house has most of its original materials with a few alteration that maintain the design and workmanship. The house remains in its original location with the same lot boundaries as when it was subdivided in 1956. The building was designed by a local architect William Pederson of the firm Pederson and Tilney. Of the four structures designed for the subdivision, this house is the only one remaining.

A fun fact - the nomination was written by the current home owner who also happens to be an Art/History Professor at UCONN, Stamford. Ms. Maher and Dr. Glaser applauded the effort, “a great day.”

b. Amendment of Boundaries to Ebenezer Story Homestead/Tavern Archaeological Preserve. Preston

On a motion by Dr. Jones, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to amend the boundaries of the Ebenezer Story Homestead/Tavern Archaeological Preserve to the register. (Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Wisniewski presented the amendment. This property was listed on the National Register in October 4, 2006, and is located within the boundaries of the former Norwich Hospital in the town of Preston. The SHPO commented on remediation activities funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which resulted in its listing on the state register and as an archaeological preserve in 2006.

In 2017, SHPO worked with the town of Preston to develop a realistic plan to define boundaries that allowed for consolidation of soils as part of remediation of contaminated soil at the site, and truck movement to avoid negative impacts to the archaeological site and other cultural resources. Based on evidence of prior disturbance, SHPO recommended the revised boundaries as indicated on the site plan. The revised boundaries include all resources identified within the 2006 nomination.

Dr. Faber asked if 9 individual Phase 1 test pits would be excluded from the boundaries. Ms. Labadia responded that yes they would be excluded, but that during initial testing the eastern boundary edge was disturbed, and that those test pits exhibited substantial disturbance. Ms. Labadia also noted having capped and consolidated soils right next to the site creates an automatic buffer for the site.

Dr. Jones mentioned he had previously worked at the site, and inquired about the access road into the quarry gravel pit, and asked if the gravel pit was going to be excavated any further. Ms. Labadia replied there is an ash layer below the access road that is contaminated. The ash will be placed in a consolidation area along the eastern boundary of the preserve. This is to be done carefully so that no other areas of the site are harmed. Test pits will be capped with clean soil and are mapped.

Dr. Faber asked if the test pits outside the preserve would be capped with black top. Ms. Labadia replied that they would be capped with clean soil. The property is still a preserve so any future action has to be reviewed by SHPO. Dr. Jones affirmed that the revised boundaries were consistent with his reading of the site and that they exclude areas of disturbance.

Dr. Sean Nugent, Chairman of the Preston Redevelopment Agency noted that this a great example of communities, the state and private partners working together. Dr. Nugent also noted that the Mohegan tribe will be involved. Dr. Nugent has met with the President of the Preston Historic Society about the project and they have no concerns.
(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

VII. Archaeological Preserves (See discussion item VI b)

- a. Amendment of Boundaries to Ebenezer Story Homestead/Tavern Archaeological Preserve (Preston)

On a motion by Dr. Jones, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to revise the boundaries of the previously established State Archaeological Preserve designated as the Ebenezer Story Homestead/Tavern in Preston, Connecticut pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-384. (Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

VIII. Threatened Properties

IX. Preservation Restrictions

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

Morgan Bengel has been hired for the position of Museum Assistant at Old New-Gate Prison and will start on January 19th. Ms. Bengel was a SHPO intern this past summer, and will be completing her Master's degree in Public History from CCSU in May.

Ms. Kaz Kozlowski will be retiring on January 31. Her position will be downgraded from Curator 2 to a Curator 1. There will be a nation-wide search to fill the position at the Prudence Crandall Museum.

The SHPO Conference will be May 16, 2018, at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill. SHPO is working with our partners for program input, starting with a meeting on January 19. The focus of the conference will be a new perspective on historic preservation; thinking about how preservationists can inspire people to think out of the box and to introduce new ways of thinking about preservation to a broader and more diverse audience.

Strategic Plan has been extended until June. SHPO will have a rough draft by mid-March.

SHPO staff met with the staff at the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to learn about their strategic plan. The office is committed to continuing to have a strong relationship with them. The new Mills project and website is now live, and we are discussing ways to continue to work with the Trust to support that project, including working with Brownfields.

A \$5 million sweep has been taken equally from all of the departments that benefit from CIA.

Dr. Glaser left the call at 10:27 a.m.

Chairwoman Nelson expressed interest in the office's ability to share upcoming grant opportunities so that when SHPO works with constituents, the staff can direct applicants to other funding options.

Previously Dr. Woodward has expressed his desire for a person with a Ph.D. in history and demonstrated research skills to review grant applications. Ms. Newman-Scott will reach out to Dr. Woodward to set up a meeting.

Ms. Dunne mentioned the National Park Service is offering Save America Treasures funding \$5 million for the entire country with a February 21st deadline. She will share the link. Federal grants can be used to match our grants.

XI. Report on Museum Properties – Written report circulated by Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro circulated a written report to the Council. She is pleased to announce that SHPO has hired Morgan Bengel to fill the position of Museum Assistant at Old New-Gate Prison. Morgan received her undergraduate degree in History/ Museum Studies from the University of Michigan, and is currently enrolled in the Public History Master's Degree program at CCSU where she has interned at the SHPO office, working with Ms. Shapiro organizing the museum files, and researching and volunteering at Old New-Gate. Morgan isn't afraid to get her hands dirty, she grew up on a farm in Michigan responsible first for the chickens, and later for the horse barn. She rides and was captain of the women's equestrian team at the University of Michigan. Morgan is currently completing her Capstone project at CCSU under Professor Warshauer, researching the theme of "Escape from and Escape to New-Gate Prison." As part of her Capstone she will be rewriting the outdoor interpretive labels at the site. Morgan will start on January 19th.

With regret SHPO will say farewell to staff member Kazimiera Kozlowski, who has served as curator at the Prudence Crandall House for 35 years. There will be a recognition party for her held by her volunteers in Canterbury on Saturday January 27, from 12:30-3. Ms. Shapiro has been working with Kaz diligently to create a plan to monitor the house during the next few months. We have begun the process to fill that position.

The museum team has been very hard at work thinking deeply and writing missions for three of the four museums. The State Museum of History and Industry at the State Library is very interested in working with SHPO to create an overarching mission statement for all the museums and historic sites owned and operated by the state, and Ken Wiggin will join Ms. Shapiro to reach out to our colleagues at DEEP to site down for a discussion about this.

The next staff retreat will be January 16th.

We have received all the Assessment reports on the museum properties and before the holiday we worked with the Department of Administrative Services and David Barkin, the state architect, to review recommendations. We are creating bid documents for work to be done at the Prudence Crandall Museum, the Sloane Museum and the Whitfield House.

On January 11, Cathy Labadia and assorted SHPO staff will head out to the basement at Viets' Tavern at Old New-Gate to perform some archeological test pits before laying a basement slab to combat the dampness in the building. Thanks to the team for making this a priority in the midst of winter. The painting and roofing projects at Old New Gate will go on as planned in the spring.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XIV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

XV. Public Forum

XVI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Jones, second Dr. Faber to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

*Next meeting will be a conference call
Wednesday, February 7, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Dial-in information to follow*