

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018
Go-to-Meeting Dial-In Conference Call**

9:30 a.m.

Via Go To Meeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/748951757>

Meeting Minutes

Call in: Chairwoman Nelson, Dr. Faber, Dr. Jones, Ms. Kane (9:41), Dr. Woodward, Dr. Glaser (9:35) and Dr. Partridge

Staff: Doug Royalty, Marena Wisniewski, Mary Dunne, Deborah Gaston, Alyssa Lozupone, Elizabeth Shapiro and (Kristina Newman-Scott called-in, 9:41 a.m.)

Guests: Ms. Mary Donohue, Ancient Burial Ground Association (in person)
Ms. Jane Montano, CT Trust
Ms. Nicole Bazemore, Eternal Light Foundation

I. Call to Order

The conference call meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Nelson reviewed the conference call attendees.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairwomen Nelson reviewed public comment procedures and the rules and procedures for call-in meetings.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairwoman Nelson reviewed the conflict of interest policy.
No conflicts identified.

IV. Review and Approval Minutes

a. *December 6, 2017 Minutes*

On a roll call motion.

(Dr. Faber, Dr. Jones, Dr. Partridge, Dr. Glaser and Ms. Kane)

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Woodward)

b. *January 10, 2018 Minutes*

On a roll call motion, passed with corrections.

(Dr. Jones, Dr. Faber, Ms. Kane and Dr. Glaser)

(Y-4, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Partridge, Woodward)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., Hartford (research application)

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Jones, the Historic Preservation Council votes to approve the prospectus produced during the first phase of the Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., which was awarded a Partners In Preservation Grant on October 4, 2017. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.

(Y-6 N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Ms. Dunne reviewed the original proposal by the ABGA approved with conditions at the October 4th, 2017 HPC meeting. At the October meeting, the HPC requested that the narrative, resources, prospectus and methodology for the project be expanded, with two-thirds of the grant funds withheld pending the changes. The revised narrative and prospectus has been submitted and staff recommends that the HPC approves the prospectus. Ms. Mary Donohue, from the ABGA, was present to answer any questions.

Dr. Woodward asked if the draft report was the final work product for this grant, and if so, when will it be available and in what form will it be presented to the Council?

Ms. Donohue responded, they are very excited about the project as the Ancient Burying Ground is one of the best examples of an 18th century African-American site in Hartford. The expanded narrative she prepared at the Council's request is not the final work product, but was written to flesh out the methodology, sources and goals for this project. Ms. Donohue presented the approach that will be taken and the end products that will be prepared, presented and shared.

Dr. Glaser suggested that Ms. Donohue review Dr. Warren Perry's work on the African Burying Ground in New York City¹, as well as a project done by Alexandria Archeology on the Freeman Cemetery, located during repairs to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, VA.

Ms. Donohue also mentioned that she has spoken to people in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and in Rhode Island who are doing similar work with African-American cemeteries. An overview report was published last year and shared by the National Park Service.

Dr. Woodward asked if any of these other burying grounds had similar issues to Hartford's burying ground. Ms. Donohue confirmed that there are many similarities due to poor record-keeping, oversight and abandonment.

Dr. Jones asked if any nineteenth century maps of the Hartford site exist, and if there are any overlays of the burying ground with the modern city. The Hartford History Center has several maps and documents, and they will be consulted.

1. FYI: <http://www.freedomscemetery.org>-- huge list of resource examples.

Dr. Warren Perry: PerryW@ccsu.edu

Janet Woodruff: woodruffj@ccsu.edu

Dr. Perry and Ms. Woodruff both worked on the African Burial Ground in NYC. Dr. Perry was one of the lead investigators and he has published/co-authored several book and articles.

Ms. Nelson noted that city GIS databases often have boundary outlines of property. Ms. Donohue will check with the city to see what information they have.

Dr. Woodward recommended Peter Baldwin at UCONN as a further resource. He wrote a book on the Front Street renewal project called *Domesticating the Street*.

b. Fayerweather Lighthouse, Bridgeport (railing repaired)

On a motion by Dr. Partridge, Second by Dr. Jones, the Historic Preservation Council votes to approve a Historic Restoration Fund grant, funded by the Community Investment Act and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), to the Fayerweather Lighthouse in the amount shown, \$49,400.00. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the DECD. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.

(Y-4, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson, Jones)

Ms. Lozupone presented the application noting that staff recommends the grant funding. The city is proposing to have the lantern-level railing around the lighthouse repaired. Additional work on the lighthouse is being funded through the Hurricane Sandy Relief Assistance Grant which Doug Royalty has been managing. Funds from that work will act as the match for the HRF funding request.

Dr. Jones requested clarification on the preservation easement (Item #12). Mr. Royalty noted that the easement will be in effect, but had not been filed yet. Once the entire project has been completed (including paint removal, water proofing of the masonry, and graffiti resistant paint applied) a twenty-year easement will be placed on the property. This is an on-going restoration project approved in 2014 which out to bid in 2015, was short of funds, after which the city's administration changed and finally in 2017, the actual work started. This HRF application will cover the remaining costs associated with the restoration that could not be fully covered by the Hurricane Sandy funding.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

None

VII. Archaeological Preserves

None

VIII. Threatened Properties

None

IX. Preservation Restrictions

None

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

Ms. Newman-Scott noted that there were no major updates regarding the budget. The office has received its full allocation of CIA funds for the first quarter, and the effects of the rescission will be seen in the next payments. The State-wide Preservation conference will be a full day program on May 16th.

Ms. Scofield and Ms. Newman-Scott had a good conversation with Sara Bronin from the CT Trust requesting assistance from the Trust to work on the issue of insurance companies denying coverage to owners of historic homes. Dr. Glaser said she has experienced this first hand and is glad to offer any assistance.

Tim Sullivan resigned last Wednesday. He has taken a new job as the head of New Jersey's Economic Development. Ms. Newman-Scott will be heading up Tourism and Marketing for the time being.

In response to Chairwoman Nelson's question regarding the status of the State Historic Preservation plan, Ms. Dunne noted that the various chapters of the plan have been divided among the staff who expect to have a draft by March 1st. The draft will be sent to the Park Services by May. The current plan expires June 30th.

XI. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro welcomed Morgan Bengel, our SHPO intern from last summer, to the position of Museum Assistant at Old New-Gate on January 19th. She has met with contractors to look at the heating, stairs and other issues and has completed her first G-1. Ms. Bengel is planning the spring season for the museum and developing plans for future collaborations. Ms. Newman-Scott, Ms. Bengel and Ms. Shapiro will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan for the next 3-6-9 months to open New Gate with all fanfare.

Ms. Kaz Kozlowski, Curator of The Prudence Crandall Museum, retired after 35 years of service on January 31, 2108. We are currently waiting for the authorization to refill this position. In the meantime, Ms. Shapiro will be at the museum one day every other week to help with the transition. Ms. Michelle Parrish, curator at The Henry Whitfield Museum, will spend one day a week there with Ms. Shapiro to evaluate the collections. The Museum looks forward to working with the Stowe Center focusing on issues of racial injustice and equality within education.

Ms. Barbara Russ from the Eric Sloane Museum and Ms. Shapiro visited with Stephanie Plunkett, Deputy Director and Curator at the Norman Rockwell Museum, in late January to discuss similarities within their institutions.

XII. Old Business

Update on Bank Street Properties, New London (CEPA)

Mr. Levine presented the update. Ms. Labadia and Mr. Levine were in the New London Superior Court on January 30th to testify on behalf of the SHPO regarding 116 and 130 Bank Street.

Only two of the fifteen witnesses to be called spoke, including the Mayor of New London and Ms. Labadia. Mr. Levine gave special commendation to Ms. Labadia who “was awesome on the stand and with her cross examination”. Mr. Levine will be recalled on the 14th and 15th of February. Everything is going well and Mr. Levine will have more information next month. Chairwoman Nelson asked Mr. Levine what the time line was on this case. Mr. Levine replied that the case should be wrapping up testimony on Thursday the 15th, following which there will be two weeks for final arguments and time for information to be typed and sent to the Judge. After that, attorneys will have the chance to rebut, then another 6 months to make a determination. The owner of the building, Mr. William Cornish, stated that he is changing his stance on the demolition and suggestion that he is open to options other than demolition. The building has been weather-proofed and is safe for the winter season.

XIII. New Business

XIV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Ms. Jane Montano, CT Trust

In January it was announced Ms. Jane Montano is now the Director of Preservation Services and Operations of the Connecticut Trust, with Mr. Wes Haynes serving as the Director of External Partnerships. She reports that things are going very well.

Dr. Faber had a question on the Yeoman Taylor House fire in Middle Haddam. The house was a good illustration of the area’s shipping industry. Community residents have serious concerns about fire prevention and Dr. Faber is looking for resources on fire prevention in historic homes. Mr. Levine mentioned that as a firefighter himself, residents should always contact their local fire department. Homes should have smoke detectors and sprinklers (if possible), and it is better if the smoke detectors are connected directly to the fire department. Ms. Newman-Scott mentioned there is a link on fire safety on the National Park Service’s preservation website, www.NPS.gov.

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 10:16 a.m.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining – Nelson)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

Next meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Plaza North Building, Room B
450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT 06103