

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, July 11, 2018 *9:30 am
450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT * South Building, 2nd Floor, Room H**

Meeting Minutes

Council: Chairwoman Gilvarg, Ms. Kane, Dr. Faber, Fiona Vernal, Dr. Glaser

Staff: Mary Dunne, Alyssa Lozupone, Elizabeth Shapiro, Jane Schneider, Jenny Scofield, Marena Wisniewski (9:52), Todd Levine (9:59)

Guests: Ms. Jane Montanaro, CT Trust
Ms. Mary Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance
Ms. Ira Hessmer, Capitol Community College, Item VI b.

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:47 am.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

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

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. *June 6, 2018 minutes*

Corrections to the minutes were recorded. No vote taken no quorum.

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Hartford Preservation Alliance - \$33,750

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Ms. Kane. *The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Partners in Preservation Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the Hartford Preservation Alliance in the amount of \$33,750. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.*

Ms. Dunne presented the application which is recommended for funding by staff. SHPO did fund the original index but is now ten years old and needs updating. She noted that HPA is one of SHPO's basic operating support partners and that the office likes to encourage partners to take on additional projects. For this update, auxiliary buildings will be included. This project has the added benefit of completing the groundwork for updating old nominations and adding information.

Ms. Falvey was happy to answer any questions. The index will be done differently than the original in that they won't be physically going to every single building. In addition a system will be added to capture new construction. HPA will use this opportunity to match funding from the Hartford Foundation to update their website to include searchable list of historic buildings.

No vote taken – no quorum.

b. United Congregational Church of Tolland - \$50,000.00

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, Second by Ms. Kane. *The Historic Preservation Council votes to approve a Historic Restoration Fund grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), to the United Congregational Church of Tolland for \$50,000. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.*

Ms. Lozupone presented the application. SHPO staff have been working with the applicant since last January, and noted that they have been very diligent in regard to their approach to Historic Preservation.

Chairwoman Gilvarg questioned if churches incorporate as nonprofits to receive the grant. Ms. Lozupone stated that they have been a nonprofit for over two years.

No vote taken – no quorum.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

a. Milford Green State Register Nomination

On a motion from Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Glaser. *The Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Milford Green, Broad Street, Milford, on the State Register of Historic Places.*

Ms. Wisniewski presented the application, under criterion two, period of significance of 1853-1998. Ms. Wisniewski noted that the Green retains its architectural integrity. Ms. Scofield was also available to answer any questions.

Dr. Glaser questioned if the green is adjacent to a historic district. Ms. Wisniewski replied that it was not. Ms. Scofield interjected that it was the Mayor and Open Space Committee who wanted the Green to be on the National Register, but there was not enough community support. Ms. Wisniewski noted that Milford has a small but enthusiastic preservation group, the Milford Preservation Trust. They were able to match the nomination preparation to our Hurricane Sandy Fund, so the application was paid for by SHPO.

Dr. Vernal questioned why the pushback? Ms. Scofield responded that there are local historic districts further outside the Green. People along the Green have demonstrated some strong feelings against the restrictions imposed by the State Register. She noted that there are

significant areas of infill along the Green which might hamper a successful National Register nomination.

No vote taken – no quorum.

b. Burnside Ice Company, East Hartford

On a motion from Dr. Glaser, Second by Dr. Faber. *The Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Burnside Ice Company at 776 Tolland Street, East Hartford, on the State Register of Historic Places.*

Ms. Wisniewski presented the application noting that it is presented under criterion one and criterion two at the local level. She noted that the building has been altered over time, but retains many aspects of its original use.

The nomination was written by Ms. Hessmer as her capstone project. During her research she found that the owner has all the original drawings of the building and the machinery. The family that owned the building has been active locally through the 1980's. The company is one of the little businesses in East Hartford that is a gem.

Chairwoman Gilvarg asked if they were still making ice. Ms. Hessmer replied no, they had to stop because of a technical reason associated with a malfunctioning valve. They sell ice, but don't make it. Their water source was a well from a spring directly in front of their building. Now making their own beer from the spring water.

Ms. Kane inquired about the future use of the building. Ms. Hessmer replied that they could make ice again if the valve was fixed. Future use could be a museum. Ms. Kane suggested that the company should speak to our colleagues in the economic side of DECD.

No vote taken – no quorum.

Calling for vote on items. Chairwoman Gilvarg called for votes which will be non-binding because no quorum was in place. The official votes will be taken at the next Council meeting.

1. Approve minutes as corrected – all in favor – unanimous
2. V a. Harford Preservation Alliance – all in favor – (Y-4, Abstain – Ms. Gilvarg)
3. V b. United Congregational Church of Tolland – all in favor (Y-4 –Abstain – Ms. Gilvarg)
4. VI a. Milford Green State Register – (Y-4 – Abstain – Ms. Gilvarg)
5. VI b. Burnside Ice Company – (Y-4 – Abstain – Ms. Gilvarg)

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Reports

None

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

None

IX. Threatened Properties

None

X. Preservation Restrictions

None

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

Kristina Newman-Scott not present. Staff presented SHPO updates under “Old Business”.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Staff updates: Hiring four seasonal workers – 3 have been offered and accepted positions. Lisa Joseph will return to the Prudence Crandall Museum, and started on July 5. Nick Wawrzyniak will return to the Eric Sloane Museum, starting on July 6. Marisely Gonzalez, a new hire, will begin on July 19 working at Prudence Crandall and at Old New-gate Prison.

Ms. Shapiro announced the hiring of a curator for Prudence Crandall – Joan DiMartino. Ms. DiMartino has previously worked at the Smith Harris House Museum in Niantic, the Colchester Historical Society and Mystic Seaport. She will begin on July 20. Ms. DiMartino has a great track record of bringing people together, having worked on projects such as the interpretation of the (historic) Colchester School for Colored Children. She has a BA in History with a minor in Women’s Studies, and an MA in Public History. She is also an established poet. She will be working on the museum’s new mission – using education as a tool for emancipation.

A scoping meeting was held at the Eric Sloane Museum to move forward with the restoration and repairs that will begin late this fall and move into high gear through the winter and early spring. The contents of the museum must be removed, packed and stored, and a registrar will be hired to do this work. The process will be done in front of the public and will add a level of interpretation to the museum experience. The museum will close after Labor Day to complete the work. Meanwhile the staff will be planning programs for the fall. Plan to reopen July 4, 2019.

The emergency foundation repairs have been completed at Viets Tavern. The painting/roofing project will begin shortly at Viets, as well as the White and Yellow cottages.

Old New-Gate Prison is reopening on Saturday, July 14th. The governor and press had a preview visit on Tuesday July 10. New-Gate is being overseen by Morgan Bengel a CCSU graduate with a degree in Public History. Pictures will be on Facebook page. Michael McBride, Liz and SHPO staff will be helping out on Saturday. Numerous volunteers will also be helping out, 550 visitors came to Open House Day we expect crowds could be over 2000 on Saturday.

The Prudence Crandall Museum is open again, Wednesday through Sunday, 10-5 pm. Henry Whitfield hosted “Make Music Day” (part of a national arts celebration) that brought in over 200 visitors.

XIII. Old Business

- a. Ms. Dunne provided an update on the Statewide Plan. The plan is on track with a draft ready by July 31st to send to the Park Service and the Historic Preservation Council. Ms. Faber may be able to help with proofreading and editing.

SHPO will meet with HPC members who have expressed interest in being involved more in the plan development in late July. Will schedule shortly.

Brad Schide of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation will be meeting with New London community in regard to the buildings in New London that were involved in the recent CEPA case. Working with Ms. Dunne on zoning opportunities. Need to be more intentional on uses for the buildings.

Quinnipiac buildings – any updates on the damage done to one of the buildings? SHPO has no updates.

XIV. New Business

Announcements

1. Kathy Maher via email – noted that she is excited about the Eliza Freeman House being added to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s most endangered building list. Recent funding for the project includes a \$50,000 grant from the National Trust, and a \$10,000 Capacity Building grant from CT Humanities.
2. Dr. Glaser mentioned Chris Murphy’s meeting on Climate Change on Friday July 13. Doug will attend. CPA sent materials to Murphy’s office on climate change and cultural properties. Dr. Glaser believes that this meeting is related to a bill sponsored by Murphy in regard to funding to NOA in regard to climate change.
3. Ms. Gilvarg noted Bridgeport is part of initiative called “Bridgeport by Design”.
4. CPA annual meeting on Monday July 16th at 4:00 pm at the Connecticut Trust office.

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

Ms. Montanaro of the Connecticut Trust presented an update – the Trust presented window restoration workshops at the Manchester Historical Society earlier this week. They do this in partnership with Historic Windsor out of Vermont.

She also noted that the Making Places Survey of Industrial files has received awards from CT Main Street and the Connecticut League of History Organizations. They will be receiving an award from the American Association for State and Local History in Kansas City later this year. The Trust is grateful to the Council & SHPO for these grants.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Faber, second by Ms. Kane to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am

Next meeting
Wednesday, August 1, 2018
Conference Call
Instructions to Follow