

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

**Wednesday, August 1, 2018 @ 9:30 am**

**Conference Call Meeting**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/533171421>

For audio: Dial In: 1-866-453-0290 Passcode: 207-626-51#

**Meeting Minutes**

Call in: Dr. Faber, Ms. Kane, Dr. Glaser, Ms. Gilvarg, Dr. Woodward and Ms. Maher

Staff: Elizabeth Shapiro, Kristina Newman-Scott, Deborah Gaston, Mary Dunne, Cathy Labadia and Alyssa Lozupone

Guests: Ms. Carol Leahey, Historic District Commission Westport  
Ms. Maryanne Liesner, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Westport  
Ms. Joan Miller, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Westport  
Ms. Tina Torracco, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Westport  
Ms. Beverly Bailey, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Westport  
Mr. Todd Bryant, Consultant, Lincoln Street Riverside Ave. Historic District  
Ms. Jane Montanaro, CT Trust  
Mr. Robert Shieman, Whitneyville Cultural Commons  
Mary Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance

**I. Call to Order**

The conference call meeting of the Historic Preservation Council was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ms. Gilvarg in Chairwoman Nelson's absence. A roll call review of the conference call participants was taken.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Ms. Gilvarg reviewed public comment procedures and the rules and procedures for call-in meetings.

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

Ms. Gilvarg reviewed the conflict of interest policy.

1. Dr. Glaser (Item V c.) is on the board of the Whitneyville Cultural Commons (no financial gain)
2. Dr. Faber (Item VIII b.) has had previous interactions with Atty. Slater (no financial gain)

The committee determined that neither disclosure results in personal financial gain so no need to recuse in either situation.

IV. **Review and Approval Minutes**

a. ***July 11, 2018 Minutes***

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Glaser, with corrections

*(Y-3, N-0, Abstaining – Ms. Gilvarg, Ms. Maher, Dr. Woodward) Roll call vote*

**b. Confirm Motion to move/approve items Va. Hartford Preservation Alliance and Vb. United Congregational Church of Tolland, as listed on the July 11<sup>th</sup> agenda**

On a motion by Ms. Kane, Second by Dr. Faber

*(Y-3, N-0, Abstaining - Ms. Gilvarg, Ms. Maher, Dr. Woodward) Roll call vote*

**Confirm motion to move/approve items VIa. Milford Green State Register Nomination and VIb. Burnside Ice Company, East Hartford, as listed on the July 11<sup>th</sup> agenda**

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, Second by Ms. Kane

*(Y-3, N-0, Abstaining - Ms. Gilvarg, Ms. Maher, Dr. Woodward) Roll call vote*

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

a. ***Historic Restoration Fund Grant: Town of Plainfield***

***Ms. Dunne noted a typographical error in the dollar amount listed on the grant motion. The amount should be \$9,950 instead of \$9,500. No vote needed to accept the new amount.***

***On a motion by Dr. Faber Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown \$9,950.00 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. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.***

***(Y-4, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg, Woodward)***

Ms. Dunne presented the application as recommended by the staff. She noted that historic schools are an endangered resource, mostly because they are standing, but vacant. The Town of Plainfield is seeking to restore the vacant school, reclaimed from a developer who did not move forward with the development plans, and which is now in desperate need of repair. Mary Ann Chinetti, the Town Planner, has had a conditions assessment completed, but the office has not received it yet.

Dr. Faber questioned the specific costs associated with the \$2,500 for legal review. Ms. Dunne replied the amount was for the contract between the consultant and the town. She noted that while the \$2500 estimate may be high, the grant will reimburse the actual costs only. Ms. Dunne will check with the planner on this amount.

Dr. Woodward also expressed concern with the amount. Ms. Gilvarg suggested that the higher cost may have something to do with legal fees associated with possible issues arising from actions associated with the previous developer. Dr. Woodward noted that the project is great, but the budget information could use clarification. Ms. Gilvarg added the grant is matched on a one to one and that she does not have a problem approving it with the understanding Ms.

Dunne will ask for a more detailed budget and will inform the town there will be a line item budget review noting billable hours before reimbursement is provided. Ms. Dunne noted that she and Ms. Lozupone have nearly completed updating grant guidelines and believes that we will receive better budgets in future applications.

**b. Survey and Planning Grant, Mystic Seaport Museum, (Mystic)**

On a motion by Dr. Maher, Second by Ms. Kane, the Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown.

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 (DECD), to the below-listed applicant in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Hearing no further discussion, motion passed.

*(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)*

Ms. Dunne presented the application as recommended by staff. This application is for a portion of the funds that will match a \$200,000 federal grant for Maritime preservation projects. The \$20,000 grant application will fund a portion of the survey and planning for the vessel. Ms. Maher asked why the Seaport did not come to HPC for Historic Restoration Funding? Ms. Dunne answered that this grant is all in support of documentation and research. She noted that this is not the first time that we have funded a historic vessel, having funded Mystic Seaport's restoration of the Morgan and the Sabino (coupled with federal support). These projects do require a different kind of easement after completion.

**c. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Whitneyville Cultural Commons, (Hamden)**

On a motion by Dr. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, 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 below-listed applicant in the amount of \$13,000.00.

All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by DECD. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed.

*(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)*

Ms. Lozupone presented the application as recommended by staff. The Cultural Commons is housed within the Whitneyville Congregational Church. She noted that it is unconventional to paint only two elevations of the church, but feels they have demonstrated adequate reasons to take this approach at this time.

Dr. Faber noted that #13 on the application needs to be checked "yes" (regarding the easement) and that #14 line 3, does not need to be checked.

Ms. Maher asked if an abatement was necessary. Ms. Lozupone replied instead of doing a full abatement, an encapsulation remediation will be done, so it won't be as expensive. She drove by the church recently and now has a better understanding of why only two sides will be painted right now. There are future plans for more restoration, and there will be an easement placed on the property.

**VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations**  
*None*

**VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report**

- a. Historic District Study Report: Lincoln Street-Riverside Avenue District, (Westport)**  
*On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second Ms. Maher, Pursuant to CGS §7-147 b (c), the Historic Preservation Council votes to the recommend approval of the study report for the proposed Lincoln Street Riverside Avenue Historic District, Westport CT as presented by Westport Historic District Commission and dated June 25, 2018. The properties will be added to the State Register of Historic Places.*

*(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)\* Note, technical difficulties printing the survey portion of this report*

Ms. Dunne noted that the study report was received on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. She then presented the report to the HPC recommended by staff. She has walked the district and believes it is a cohesive district with a lot of variety. Carol Leahey, Ms. Maryanne Liesner, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Ms. Joan Miller, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Ms. Tina Torraco, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Ms. Beverly Bailey, Lincoln Street Neighbors, Mr. Todd Bryant, Consultant, Lincoln Street Riverside Ave. Historic District, were all on the call and very supportive of this project. Ms. Leahey is impressed by the work of the consultant and noted that there is great neighborhood support.

Dr. Faber mentioned she has to abstain because she was unable to down load the full file of survey reports. The property she was able to view was rebuilt and she questioned whether this property could be included. Ms. Dunne replied that listing on the local register does not need to meet the same requirements as the state and federal registers. Ms. Dunne will scan the document for those who were unable to print it. Ms. Dunne noted that Westport goes above and beyond what is asked for by completing survey forms for local historic districts, which are not required. Dr. Faber noted that if the survey forms are not required, then she will be able to vote on the application.

Mr. Bryant noted that residents are working to find a new name for the district which is less “clinical.” The current thought is to reflect the West Saugatuck District School which probably served this area of Lincoln Street, and change the district to the “West Saugatuck District.” Ms. Dunne noted that the Council can only give comments on what has been submitted, and that the name change may be made at the local level. Changing the name would open the possibility of later expansion of the district.

**VIII. Archaeological Preserves**  
*None*

**IX. Threatened Properties**  
*None*

**X. Preservation Restrictions**

*None*

**XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office Activities – Ms. Kristina Newman-Scott (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)**

Ms. Newman-Scott's last day with DECD will be Thursday, August 3 as she has accepted a position as the President of Media/Arts Nonprofit **Bric** in Brooklyn NY. Liz Shapiro will step into Kristina's position as the interim. There will be a nation-wide search. The position will be posted as soon as it is approved.

The 2019 budget has been approved. The link for Strategic Plan was put into the Dropbox account yesterday late afternoon. HPC members should feel free to offer comments on the plan. SHPO is awaiting a review from the National Park Service.

Ms. Gilvarg noted that Kristina Newman-Scott will be sorely missed and thanked her for her service.

Ms. Newman-Scott thanked the HPC for their dedication and support and her warm welcome when she arrived at DECD.

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

**Museum Staff:**

The museums have filled the fourth seasonal worker position, but unfortunately lost one of the original three employees. Ms. Shapiro is working to fill that position, which will be reporting to Old New-Gate Prison.

Joanie DiMartino, the new curator at Prudence Crandall Museum, started on July 20. She has an innate understanding of the potential issues that differentiate government jobs with those in the nonprofit world, and of the potential of the Prudence Crandall Museum to make significant contributions to both Connecticut and the nation's story. Ms. Shapiro is extremely excited to work with her to create new directions for the museum.

**Museums General:**

**Sloane Museum:**

The president of the Friends of Eric Sloane Museum will be working on an illustrated booklet that will serve as a gallery guide to Sloane's works on display in the museum. This will be a collaborative effort between the Friends and the museum. The booklet will be ready for the 2019 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Staff has been busy cleaning out areas of the museum – including the office and attic – that generally receive little attention in preparation for the building renovations which will begin over the winter. While the museum will close on Labor Day Monday, all scheduled special events will move forward.

### **New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine**

1063 people visited Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine on Opening Day on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We had about 26 volunteers involved, and several staff from the museums, as well as SHPO staff. In general attendance continues to run between 350 and 500 on the weekend days, and 150-200 on Friday afternoons and Monday mornings.

The play that was commissioned by the museum about Old New-Gate debuted on opening day. Called *Tales from the Dungeon: Life at New-Gate*, it was a big hit. This is a partnership with the Theatre Guild of Simsbury. Last Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, the site presented *Layers of Old New-Gate*, a day devoted to archaeology.

Press for the events has been wonderful, although no paid advertising has been done. At this stage, with limited staff, increased visitation could be a problem. Facebook is still the primary way of communicating with the public. Jim Watson, DECD press contact, and the Tourism staff have been very helpful.

The painting/roofing project for Viets, and the White and Yellow cottages is now slated to begin on August 6. It's been delayed because of issues with getting all the appropriate sign-offs during summer vacation time.

### **Prudence Crandall Museum:**

The museum presented "Music at Twilight" on Saturday July 28, and is now preparing for Prudence Crandall Day, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend and is held in celebration of Prudence Crandall's birthday. Joan DiMartino is working to add programming to the fall line-up.

### **Henry Whitfield State Museum:**

The Henry Whitfield State Museum participated in Old Guilford Days on July 28/29. This is a partnership between the museum and the four other historic sites in Guilford. Curator Mike McBride has added "Behind the Scenes" curator's tours to this summer's programs, the next one is coming on August 12.

## **XIII. Old Business**

### **a. SHPO Statewide Plan**

Is in "Dropbox". See notes above.

### **b. Westport Local Historic District informational update**

Ms. Dunne explained that we have received a letter from a lawyer advising the Council of circumstances related to the extension of the Westport Local Historic District as discussed at the HPC meeting on August 1. The letter was brought to Attorney Alan Ponansky, and DECD staff Attorney Lisa Bakanas for review. They confirmed staff opinion that the discussion held at the August 1 meeting was deliberate and that the comments shared were offered as a recommendation only. Ms. Dunne will draft a response to the request that states the facts only. The letter will be reviewed by counsel and Chairwoman Nelson, and signed by Chairwoman Nelson on behalf of the HPC.

Ms. Maher noted that it is important that they be aware that these discussions were held without regard to future use.

**XIII. New Business**  
**1738 Palmer Warner House, (East Haddam)**

Dr. Faber received a call from Angela, the Treasurer of the East Haddam Historic Society expressing concern regarding the deteriorated condition at the property owned by Connecticut Landmarks. Dr. Faber recommended that she speak with the CT Trust for Historic Preservation.

Ms. Dunne noted that an HRF grant was awarded to CT Landmarks for the barn of this property.

Ms. Gilvarg asked if the CT Trust has heard from East Haddam and Ms. Montanaro replied that she was unsure, but that Greg Farmer may have been contacted.

Ms. Kane mentioned there has been public press about CT Landmarks' care of their sites. The Attorney General has become involved. She noted that while it is good to learn about the discussions, it is important for all to listen and be informed.

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

Ms. Montanaro had nothing to report, but thanked Ms. Newman-Scott and wished her the best in her new adventure.

Ms. Falvey, Hartford Preservation Alliance wished Ms. Newman-Scott all the best. She noted that this is the first official meeting she has attended as the Director of Hartford Preservation Alliance.

**XV. Public Forum**

**XVI. Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Ms. Maher, second Dr. Woodward to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.*

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah Gaston, Secretary

*Next meeting*  
*Wednesday, September 5, 2017, 9:30 a.m. Plaza North Hearing Room G*

