

CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019
7:30 p.m. Room 210, Cheshire Town Hall
84 South Main Street

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Joseph Dattilo, James Vibert, Sr., George Pawlush, Helen Wilson, Andrew Martelli, Lisa Franco

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

John Torello

STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dattilo called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.; in the absence of the recording secretary, Mrs. Wilson agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken for the meeting.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Chairman Dattilo seated Mrs. Wilson as an alternate commissioner for voting.

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, regular meeting of January 7, 2019

MOTION made by Mr. Vibert to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 7, 2019 as submitted.

SECONDED by Mr. Pawlush and passed unanimously.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Jerry said a District property owner requested information on the solar guidelines before we adopt them. Jerry suggested we send them to all property owners before we adopt the guidelines.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. SOLAR GUIDELINES – Joe said the guidelines should go out to the District within 3 months. He reached out to Jeanné Chesanow and Greg Farmer, from the CT Trust, who recommended that all applications go through the HDC, eliminating the “fast track.” Jerry noted in the past, one application went through with approval of a building official. Commissioners agreed that the HDC should be aware of all applications. If we do a “fast track”, at least one person from the commission should be present. Jim felt all applications should come through the CHDC.

On page 5(d) of the Guidelines, the word “flush” should be changed to “four inches or less.”

Page 7, item #4 (b): Parking lot solar system—Jim felt we should never have an item like this in the District. Jerry said such a system would need a building permit, but we have not come across this situation. On page 4, section D, we agreed to add the wording “The structure should be designed to be compatible with existing historic structures.”

Item #7 “materials” should be eliminated.

Typo’s: Page 7, item #6, second line: “back” should be “black.”
Page 6, heading for item #7, should read “parking” and item #6 heading should read “freestanding.”

B. COMMITTEES

1. Education/community outreach: Discussion on work that may be going on in the District but has not been submitted to CHDC. George asked if we educate new homeowners who move into the District. Jerry keeps an eye on this and sends a letter with the regulations. Joe suggested we send a new letter out modeled on one done in the past. Lisa felt such a letter should go out once a year. We will update the letter and get it out, with new solar guidelines. Joe said at the next meeting we will review the revised solar guidelines and send them out to the historic district within 3 months.
2. Jerry would like to get to updating guidelines and distributing them to homeowners.
3. Chairman’s Report: Joe suggested we may want to explore creation of a separate “thematic historic district” including the Ball and Socket and surrounding historic buildings. This would be helpful to the Ball and Socket project and help

attract grants. Jeanné felt all the steps could be done within a year. The town council would have to appoint a study committee. The town council would approve the proposal and bring it to a referendum.

Helen has done some research on historic homes on West Main Street and will bring this to the next meeting, locating the buildings on a map and including photos.

4. OTHER: Andrew updated us on the Ball and Socket project and asked about 479 Mt. Sanford Road which is in the historic district. There is someone who wants to purchase and renovate it.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Ms. Franco at 8:12 p.m.

SECONDED by Mr. Vibert and passed unanimously.

Attest:

Helen S. Wilson
Acting Recording