

CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, February 3, 2020 AT 7:30 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Joseph Dattilo, George Pawlush, Helen Wilson and Gayle Nidoh

Commissioners Absent:

John Torello, James Vibert, Sr., Lisa Franco

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Brian Rogers, SIG Insurance

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dattilo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The roll was taken for the meeting.

**III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Chairman Dattilo seated all alternate commissioners for voting.

**IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present.

**V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING (continuation of 1/6 hearing)**

Certificate of Appropriateness #2019-008  
219 Realty LLC c/o Brian Rogers, member  
219 South Main Street  
Replace Existing Free Standing Sign-The SIG Insurance Agencies

Mr. Sitko noted that a legal notice appeared in the Cheshire Herald announcing the 2/3/20 hearing and everyone was notified. Mr. Sitko corresponded with Mr. Rogers and changes were made to the sign. The final decision will be made by the Historic District Commission.

The hearing commenced at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Rogers distributed pictures of the new proposed sign and its dimensions, as well as a sample of the proposed material for the sign, which is "sign foam". The posts will be wood, and the wording will be carved into the sign. Mr. Sitko said approval will also be contingent on the applicant meeting planning and zoning regulations. Mr. Rogers will try to match the color of the building.

Mr. Dattilo noted that the sign is not attached to the historic structure and it is not replacing a historic sign.

Mr. Sitko thanked Mr. Rogers for his cooperation. Pictures of signs in Cheshire taken by Commissioner Wilson were distributed; Mr. Dattilo said in the future he would like to make pictures of good signs available to applicants, along with suggestions of sign companies who are able to work with the guidelines. In the future, we would like to have signs on historic district buildings with information about the building's history.

Mr. Rogers said he is excited to be moving ahead. He added that there is some historic material and a tile in the building that are of interest. It might be nice to have a reception when the business opens to highlight the history.

The public hearing closed at 7:47 p.m.

**VII. REGULAR MEETING**

1. Approval of Minutes – minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting were approved.
2. COMMUNICATIONS – Sarah and Stephen Shea, new occupants of 224 Cornwall Avenue, received a letter from Mr. Sitko and the Historic District Commission welcoming them to the district.

3. BUSINESS

A. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS #2019-008

219 Realty, LLC c/o Brian E. Rogers, member  
219 South Main Street

Replace Existing Free-standing Sign – SIG Insurance

**MOTION** by Mrs. Wilson to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that it meets the sign regulations.

**SECONDED** by Mrs. Nidoh and passed unanimously with the stipulation.

B. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Sitko spoke with the CT Trust regarding the possibility of reviewing the guidelines. They are receptive. We would also like to seek funds for signs for buildings in the historic districts and for re-printing our historic district tri-fold pamphlets.

Mrs. Wilson compiled information on West Main Street buildings and we would like to share this with the public at some time, perhaps in pamphlet form. Of special interest is Ball and Socket with its related buildings; at least ten buildings on West Main Street have some historical connection to the company (which was formerly Cheshire Manufacturing). A “thematic Historic District” is an option.

C. HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Mrs. Nidoh asked how historic districts are formed. Messrs. Sitko and Dattilo briefly described the process. The town

council has to appoint a study committee. The proposed district and committee's report then goes to public hearing followed by a referendum of affected property owners. The ordinance is subsequently adopted. The process may take 2 years or more. If we wish to pursue this, we should put together a proposal for Mr. Veleber and the council.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Mr. Pawlush at 8:15 p.m.

**SECONDED** by Mrs. Nidoh and passed unanimously.

Attest:

Helen S. Wilson, Acting Recording Secretary