

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commission Members Present:

Chairman Jeanné Chesanow, Joseph Dattilo and Elizabeth Pratt Fox

Commission Members Absent:

Eric Anderson and John Torello – Alternate

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chesanow called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

No alternate members were seated for voting purposes during this meeting.

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2011 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2011 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission with the following corrections: page 4, seventh paragraph, last sentence should read, "...still working on it but it may be "monolific". And page 8, item F, last sentence in the first paragraph should read, "...doing the Historic Resource Survey project, begins at 4 p.m." **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt-Fox.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Dattilo, and Pratt - Fox
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Chesanow stated that Lisa and Joe Franco of Cornwall Avenue have contacted her regarding possibly replacing 8 windows in their home. Chairman Chesanow gave them some information regarding window replacement vs. window repairs for windows in a historic home and has encouraged them to price out and look at the 2 options. She also informed them that repairing the windows would not require a Certificate of Appropriateness Public Hearing but if they chose to replace them, one will be required. Mr. Dattilo stated that he would look for the historic window data sheet he had put together so the information could be shared with the Francos.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Chesanow and the Commissioners that were present talked about changing the regular meeting schedule to once a month, in an effort to have more Commissioners attend the meeting. Chairman Chesanow also reminded Commissioners that the Election of Officers for the Historic District Commission should be held at the first December meeting; a new Chairman will need to be elected at that time.

Mr. Dattilo suggested that Chairman Chesanow write another letter to the Editor of the Cheshire Herald regarding the Commission's current vacancies.

B. Regulations / Rules Committee

Mr. Sitko reported that Attorney Glovach from the Town Attorney's office has left the firm but before she did, she filed a report with comments regarding the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure and Historic District Commission Regulations. Mr. Sitko will e-mail the report to the Commission members for their review. The Town Attorney would like to a meeting to review the report with Commissioners but Mr. Sitko stated that he would like to

make sure all Commission members would be present before inviting the Town Attorney to a meeting. Mr. Dattilo will check his availability for the November 7th meeting and Chairman Chesanow will contact Mr. Anderson and Mr. Torello.

C. Follow-up Activities to Meeting with Property Owners

Mr. Sitko stated that the report regarding the removal of 22 Pine Terrace from the Cornwall Avenue / Town Center Historic District is with the Town Council's Ordinance Review Committee to take action on.

Chairman Chesanow talked about House Bill # 2555 "The Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011" which is proposed to provide relief to homeowners of property listed on the National Registry of Historic Places or in a Historic District and will provide a tax credit of not more than \$60,000. Chairman Chesanow stated that there is a list of agencies and organizations backing this Bill, which is a Federal program in the Ways and Means Committee, but she does not see that the State of Connecticut is backing this bill yet.

MOTION by Elizabeth Pratt Fox that the Historic District Commission write a letter to its historic property owners and suggest they contact Congressman Chris Murphy to encourage him to support House Bill # 2555 "The Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011". **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Dattilo, and Pratt - Fox
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

D. Education / Community Outreach Committee

Ms. Pratt Fox stated that the final lecture of the series will be held at 4 p.m. on November 6th at the First Congregational Church with 4 local barn owners who will talk about saving historic barns. There has been good coverage of the first 2 lectures with about 30 people attending each, but Ms. Pratt Fox was disappointed not to have any Historic District Commissioners, other than Chairman Chesanow who was speaking, attend the lectures.

Chairman Chesanow talked about having the picture slide show she had created for her lecture put on the local cable access channel, possibly with a voice over. In addition, she may be holding her lecture again for a future Chamber of Commerce event.

E. Ball and Socket building – West Main Street

Mr. Sitko stated that he is still getting inquiries about the Ball and Socket building on West Main Street with some very interesting ideas for the property.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo that the Historic District Commission regular meeting of October 17, 2011 be adjourned at 9:03 p.m. **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt-Fox.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Dattilo and Pratt-Fox
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary