

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

Commission Members Present:

Chairman Jeanné Chesanow, Eric Anderson (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Joseph Dattilo, Elizabeth Pratt Fox and John Torello – Alternate

Commission Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chesanow called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Alternate member, John Torello, was 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 –October 17, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Elizabeth Pratt Fox to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission with the following addition: page 3, item D, first paragraph should have the following added: “Ms. Pratt Fox noted that Councilwomen Nichols and Flynn-Harris were both at the lecture at the end of September.” **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Chesanow stated that Ron Dischinger of Elim Park contacted her regarding the potential move of the Abel Andrews house, located at 200 Cook Hill Road, to Easton, CT. The Andrews house is located on Elim Park property and is one of the oldest houses in Cheshire. Chairman Chesanow stated that she spoke with Helen Higgins today who suggested that she look into the possibility of the Town buying the house for a minimal amount and then have it moved to Town owned property, to keep it in Cheshire. She was also told that grant money would be an option for this project, if the Town did it but not if it is moved by an individual. Mr. Sitko stated that he would talk to Town Manager Milone about this situation.

It was noted that the Andrews house does need renovations that could be costly. The only estimate that Elim Park received for renovations was approximately \$450,000. Chairman Chesanow stated that that estimate was received a few years ago but she believes the renovations could be done for less. Commissioners also talked about the possibility of members of the community maybe donating time / professional services to help repair the house, if it stays in Cheshire.

Mr. Anderson suggested finding enough volunteers to restore the house where it is, on Cook Hill Road. Mr. Torello stated that he knew one of the Elim Park Board of Directors and he would contact him to find out Elim Park’s position on the Andrews House. Ms. Pratt Fox suggested writing a letter to Elim Park to ask that they work together with this Commission to try to save the house, to at the very least keep it in Cheshire. She talked about the canal house in Hamden that was moved to State property and has a 50-year lease, with a listing of required upkeep items.

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Chesanow reminded Commissioners that there has been talk recently about changing the regular meeting schedule to once a month, in an effort to have more Commissioners attend the meeting, which could be discussed further in December when the 2012 meeting schedule is set. 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.

Chairman Chesanow stated that at Mr. Dattilo's suggestion she wrote another letter to the Editor of the Cheshire Herald regarding the Commission's current vacancies, which should be printed soon.

Chairman Chesanow suggested that due to anticipated lack of quorum being so close to Thanksgiving, that the November 21st Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission be canceled, unless there is urgent business to attend to.

B. Follow-up Activities to Meeting with Property Owners

Mr. Sitko reported that the Town Council's Ordinance Review Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, November 9th to recommend deleting 22 Pine Terrace from the Cornwall Avenue / Town Center Historic District due to the initial error that had included it in the original Ordinance.

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. The report was included in this meeting's packet for the Commission members to review. The Town Attorney's office would like to meet to review the report with all the Commissioners on Monday, December 5th.

C. Education / Community Outreach Committee

Ms. Pratt Fox reported that the final lecture of the series that was held on Sunday, November 6th at the First Congregational Church with 4 local barn owners who talked about saving historic barns went well with about 50 people in attendance. Many people have asked about a Spring lecture series, but Ms. Pratt Fox has said that the Commission can think about that when they are fully staffed. Ms. Pratt Fox stated that there was a good showing from members of the Historic Society and she wanted to thank Ms. Diane Calabro for all of great work on the lecture series. Mr. Sitko commented that it was a great panel of barn owners at the lecture.

Chairman Chesanow suggested that a future lecture series could be done cooperatively with the Cheshire Land Trust, Cheshire Historical Society and/or the Cheshire Historic District Commission on topics such as local farmers, local orchards, or local stonewalls.

Commissioners also talked about re-visiting the application to become a Certified Local Government for Cheshire.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Elizabeth Pratt Fox that the Historic District Commission regular meeting of November 7, 2011 be adjourned at 8:20 p.m. **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

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

The motion passed 5 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary