

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Jeanne Chesanow, Joseph Dattilo and Elizabeth Pratt Fox

Commissioners Absent:

Eric Anderson and John Torello

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chesanow called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The recording secretary took the roll for the meeting.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

There were no alternates seated for this meeting.

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present.

V. TRANSFER OF CHAIRMANSHIP

Chairman Chesanow transferred the Chairmanship of the Historic District Commission to Elizabeth Pratt Fox. All present thanked Chairman Chesanow for all her work as Chair of the Commission.

VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2011 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2011 regular meeting with the corrections noted below; **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

Corrections to the December 5, 2011 minutes: Page 5, last paragraph, first sentence should read, "...stated that Mr. Anderson is acting like no one but him..."; Page 7, second paragraph, first sentence should read, "...then having forgotten, even though he was the Vice Chairman of the Commission."; Page 8, Communications, the first sentence should read, "Mr. Sitko reported that the removal of 22 Pine...";

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko shared with the Commission the letter that was sent to Mr. Bahlman, Director of Culture & State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the Town Council's approval of the removal of 22 Pine Terrace from the Cornwall Avenue / Town Center Historic District.

IX. BUSINESS

A) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the 2011 year end report to the State needs to be completed soon, with the help of Ms. Chesanow. She also informed the Commission that she would be attending the March 2nd breakfast in Hartford where they will be talking about Historic Districts and their property values.

B) Review of Final Draft of Revised Regulations

Mr. Dattilo and Ms. Chesanow have worked on the proposed Regulation revisions for quite a while and now the Town Attorney has reviewed them as well with Ms. Chesanow and Chairman Pratt Fox last week. The final draft was distributed to Commissioners for tonight's meeting.

Mr. Sitko suggested sending a clean copy of the proposed revised Regulations and a copy showing the changes to all the Historic District property owners before a Public Hearing is held. He also noted that the Town Attorney is reviewing the Rules of Procedure now, too.

It has been suggested that wording be added that if a Commissioner misses 50% or more of the regular Historic District Commission meetings due to unexcused absences, the Commission could recommend removal of the Commissioner by a

vote of the Town Council. Pre-application language will also be added to the Rules of Procedure.

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow that the Historic District Commission approve the Historic District Regulations final draft as submitted on February 2, 2012. **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo that the Historic District Commission schedule a Public Hearing for March 5, 2012 to receive public comments regarding the proposed revisions to the Historic District Commission Regulations. **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Chairman Pratt Fox noted that going forward, the approval of the coming year's regular meeting dates will need to be done in October or November going forward due to State Regulations requiring a minimum of 30 days notice of meeting. This will be revised in the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

C) Education / Community Outreach Committee

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that there was nothing new to report for the Education / Community Outreach Committee.

D) Andrew's Family papers

Ms. Chesanow reported that she wrote a letter in 2005 to Harriet Ewaskio, who is the niece of Lillian Andrews, when there was concern that the Andrew's house was going to be taken down. She stated that she contacted Ms. Ewaskio again recently to update her on the status of the house. During their conversation, Ms. Ewaskio stated that she had many Andrews family papers. Ms. Chesanow suggested that copies could be made of the papers for the Historical Society or Cheshire Public Library, or perhaps they would be interested in donating the original papers.

It was noted that the Andrews House, on Cook Hill Road, is still on Elim Park's property, even though it was believed that the house was going to be dismantled and rebuilt out of town. Mr. Sitko stated that he believed a demolition contractor had been to the Building Department regarding this building and he stated he would check with that department to see what the status is.

Chairman Pratt Fox commented that she would have like to have seen the Andrews house used / moved for Interfaith Housing somewhere in Cheshire. She stated that she would be willing to talk to the parties involved if no demolition permit has been granted yet.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary