

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

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanne Chesanow and Joseph Dattilo

Commissioners Absent:

Eric Anderson and John Torello

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken for the meeting.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

There were no alternates seated for voting 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 – April 16, 2012 Regular Meeting

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2012 regular meeting as submitted; **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Historic District Commission.

VIII. BUSINESS

- A) Application for Exemption from COA - # 2012 – 002E
Estrella Havell
224 Cornwall Avenue
Re: Rear Window Replacement

Commissioners reviewed the Certificate of Appropriateness Exemption application that was received from Estrella Havell of 224 Cornwall Avenue for the replacement of a rear window at her house. Chairman Pratt Fox stated that when the application was received there was a question as to what window is being replaced and if the window is visible from a public way.

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the window in question has been clarified and she does not believe it is visible from any public way. Ms. Chesanow stated that she agreed, it is maintenance work and agrees that it is not visible from a public way and the application should be exempt. She noted that the write up from Lowes for the project states that repair work will be done on the rear storm door trim. Mr. Sitko also stated that he visited the property and agrees that the rear window at 224 Cornwall Avenue is not visible from a public right of way. He noted that he went to the Havell property because Ms. Havell didn't think she would be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Commissioners questioned if an application should be filled out if the property owner doesn't think the project is visible. It was agreed that it is best to have an application filled out and then a determination can be made, in order to have everything on record.

MOTION by Elizabeth Pratt Fox that the Certificate of Appropriateness application of Estrella Havell for the replacement of a rear window at 224 Cornwall Avenue is Exempt because it is not visible from a public right of way and the proposed work does not require a Certificate of Appropriateness. **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0.

B) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox wished everyone a Happy Historic Preservation Month!

Chairman Pratt Fox talked about a saltbox style house at 505 Peck Lane that is being dismantled and will be moved to Greenwich. The house belonged to Deacon Peck and the land records say it was built in 1740, making it one of the oldest houses in Cheshire. Chairman Pratt Fox commented that this will be the 3rd historic house Cheshire has lost recently, adding that perhaps a 90 day demolition delay ordinance would have allowed these historic buildings to remain in Cheshire. It was suggested that the house at 505 Peck Lane be documented, before it is taken down, to show it as an example. Commissioners talked about looking at other Connecticut towns' demolition delay ordinance to see if they can be adapted for Cheshire.

C) Education / Community Outreach Committee

Chairman Pratt Fox informed the Commission that she, Ms. Chesanow and Janice Yusza, Vice Chair of the Cheshire Historical Society visited the North Haven Historical Society to talk about their historic trolley tour that is done in North Haven each year using a trolley bus. The group met with Bob and Sue Iverson and Pat Buonpane and were told that North Haven charges \$15 per person for the 90 minute trolley tour; they have 3 tours each year; the tour is held on a Sunday in the Fall and this will be their 4th year holding the tour. The North Haven Historical Society stated that the trolley holds 33 people and every seat is sold out on each tour; the trolley is rented from Dattco Bus Company with a driver for \$1,200 and the ticket sales cover the cost of the trolley with any profit going back to the Historical Society.

Chairman Pratt Fox has suggested that the Historic District Commission work with the Cheshire Historical Society to explore having a trolley tour in Cheshire.

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the State can not provide any funding for the South Brooksvale Historic District signs and suggested looking into local options for grants and/or donations.

D) Rules of Procedure

Chairman Pratt Fox suggested that the proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure be distributed to the Commissioners for their review so they can be discussed at the next Historic District Commission meeting.

E) Certified Local Government

Commissioners talked about inviting Mary Dunn to a future Historic District Commission meeting to talk about the Certified Local Government program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joe Dattilo to adjourn the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:45 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