

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanne Chesanow, Joseph Dattilo and John Torello (arrived at 8:05 p.m.),

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pratt Fox 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 Pratt Fox stated that there are currently no alternate Historic District Commissioners to seat for voting.

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 – November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting
December 3, 2012 Regular Meeting**

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2012 regular meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0 - 1.

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2012 regular meeting with the following change: Seating of Alternates should read no alternates were seated, as it was noted that John Torello had been reappointed to the Historic District Commission as a Regular Member. **SECONDED** by John Torello.

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

The motion passed 3 – 0 - 1.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Chesanow talked about the Historic Preservation award nominations that are underway at the CT Trust. Ms. Chesanow suggested nominating the Keeler House, depending on the status of the property ownership and perhaps the McKee Barn. If there are any other suggestions, please let Ms. Chesanow know. Mr. Sitko stated that he would look into the Keeler property ownership for Ms. Chesanow.

VIII. BUSINESS

A) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she would provide any additional information she has throughout the agenda topics' discussion.

B) Plan of Conservation and Development

Chairman Pratt Fox reported that Ms. Pittsley has been working on a map for the Plan of Conservation and Development, which will mark out historic locations in Cheshire. A

Special Meeting of the Education / Community Outreach Committee will be held on January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall to review the map.

C) Committees

1. Education / Community Outreach Committee

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she and Ms. Chesanow would be meeting January 13th with the Historical Society Trolley Tour Co-Project Directors, Janice Yusza and Pat Vita about a possible Trolley Tour of Cheshire this Fall.

2. Regulations / Rules

a. Design Guidelines

Chairman Pratt Fox suggested that a meeting of the Regulations / Rules Committee be held to review the last draft of the proposed Design Guidelines for the Historic District Commission from August 2010. Ms. Chesanow noted that she thinks that there only needs to be some images added to the document as examples and perhaps some general guiding principles are needed.

Committee Members agreed that they would like to meet on February 4th at 6:30 p.m., before the next Historic District Commission meeting.

D) Demolition Delay Ordinance

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the Ordinance Committee of the Town Council will be meeting tomorrow night and is expected to discuss the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance. She stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow but Ms. Chesanow is available to attend on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Sitko noted that there are 531 structures in Cheshire that are 100 years or older, including barns (of which there are 81). He added that there are 941 structures in Cheshire that are over 75 years old (of which 118 are barns).

Mr. Sitko suggested that the Commission present information to the Ordinance Committee regarding which other towns in Connecticut have Demolition Delay Ordinances and situations where a Demolition Delay has worked. I

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that there are 60 towns in Connecticut that currently have Demolition Delay Ordinances, nothing that 99% of the time it allows for the structure to be documented and perhaps for the materials to be used somewhere else after the structure has been taken down. Ms. Chesanow talked about the recent situation in Southington where the YMCA wanted to take down a historic building to expand their parking lot. Mr. Sitko stated that this situation is a good example to use with the Ordinance Review Committee tomorrow night.

Commissioners were unsure if the Ordinance Committee would vote on the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance themselves or send it to the full Town Council for their review.

E) Certified Local Government

Mr. Sitko stated that he recently received the Certified Local Government information from Mary Dunne and he will be starting to go through the information. He hopes to have the application complete for Cheshire in the next month or two. Mr. Sitko noted that he will need a resume from Ms. Pittsley for the Certified Local Government application.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by John Torello to adjourn the January 6, 2013 meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:20 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary