

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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, Christine Pittsley and John Torello

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Dorothy Druvva of 223 North Rolling Acres Rd (departed at 8:44 p.m.)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:38 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 – Regular Meeting – January 7, 2013  
Education / Community Outreach Committee Meeting –  
January 23, 2013**

**MOTION** by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2013 regular meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

**MOTION** by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2013 Education / Community Outreach Committee meeting as submitted. **SECONDED** by Christine Pittsley.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Chesanow mentioned that she was contacted by Mr. Rochford regarding his barn on West Main Street and if there was any funding available for work on the barn? Ms. Chesanow told Mr. Rochford that the CT Trust should have some new opportunities announced in about 60 days for barn preservation funding.

**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. Ms. Pittsley stated that she is working with the Town Assessor to get the Town's GIS mapping coordinates. It was noted that the Town Planner, Mr. Voelker, has the goals and objectives from the Historic District Commission for the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire.

## C) Committees

## 1. Education / Community Outreach Committee

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the Education / Community Outreach Committee met January 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the Trolley Tour of Cheshire this Fall and there has been 2 meetings with herself and Ms. Chesanow along with members of the Cheshire Historical Society for planning purposes of this tour. Ms. Chesanow has been working on the script for the tour and already has 30 pages prepared so far. Ms. Pittsley will be creating a map for the Trolley Tour. The Trolley Tour is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 2013; there will be 3 tours that day and the cost will be \$15 per person. The narrator for the event will be Marvin Carley and each tour is expected to take 90 minutes. Chairman Pratt Fox reported that the Cheshire Historical Society is looking for sponsors and also looking into possible CT Trust funding for the tour. If the Historic District Commission wants to co-sponsor the event, they will need to get Town Council approval.

**MOTION** by John Torello that the Historic District Commission ask the Town Council's permission to co-sponsor a Cheshire Trolley Tour with the Cheshire Historical Society, which will be held this Fall 2013. **SECONDED** by Joseph Dattilo.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

Ms. Chesanow brought up the CT Trust for Preservation Awards that will be coming up and asked if the Commission would like to recognize Paul Bowman for the work he has done in 2012 on the Keeler property? She noted that there is a \$25 application fee and that all applications are due by February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Chesanow stated that it is an extensive application and noted that the awards will be given out in April. Commissioners agreed that award would be worth doing for the work Mr. Bowman has one on this project but with the short timing it was unlikely that the application would be completed by the deadline.

Ms. Dorothy Druvva of 223 North Rolling Acres Road was present and commented that the Chauncy Hall house on the corner of Maple Avenue and North Rolling Acres Road is gorgeous and has had some work done to really make it more beautiful. She also mentioned a house on Blacks Road that is set back and appears to be an 18<sup>th</sup> Century house which looks like some work on been done it, too.

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the Education / Community Outreach Committee is talking about starting a program to recognize historic properties in Cheshire, perhaps to recognize a historic property in Cheshire publically each quarter with a

certificate, sign or plaque. Mr. Torello commented that it doesn't have to be a big project but some rather to show respect for the property and its history. It was suggested that each Commissioner bring a list of proposed historic properties in Cheshire to the next Historic District Commission meeting to review.

**MOTION** by Jeanne Chesanow that the Historic District Commission would like to start researching and recognizing historic properties throughout Cheshire.  
**SECONDED** by Christine Pittsley.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

## 2. Regulations / Rules

### a. Design Guidelines

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that the Regulations / Rules Committee held a meeting earlier tonight to review the last draft of the proposed Design Guidelines for the Historic District Commission from August 2010. Mr. Dattilo and Mr. Torello will be working to find images to re-enforce the definitions in the Design Guidelines book. Once completed the Design Guidelines will be available on the Town web site and printed on demand.

## D) Demolition Delay Ordinance

Chairman Pratt Fox noted her disappointment that the Ordinance Committee of the Town Council met January 7<sup>th</sup> and voted against the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance, therefore it would not be moving forward to the Town Council for further discussion. Commissioners all voiced their disappointment and frustration with the Ordinance Review Committee.

Ms. Dorothy Druvva addressed the Commission and stated that she had spoke with Councilwoman Nichols, the head of the Ordinance Review Committee, and Ms. Nichols had told Ms. Druvva that she had concerns about the Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Chairman Pratt Fox suggested that perhaps after the November Town Council elections the Historic District Commission could try again to move forward with a Demolition Delay Ordinance for Cheshire. For now the Commission should focus on keeping preservation in the forefront of Cheshire property owners.

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she agrees the whole thing could have been handled better but the only thing this Commission can do right now is to move forward with what they can do such as education activities, Certified Local Government designation for Cheshire, etc.

Commissioners agreed that the topic Demolition Delay Ordinance should be removed from future agendas, for the time being.

E) Certified Local Government

Mr. Sitko stated that he has received a resume from Ms. Pittsley for the Certified Local Government application and is working on the application. Mr. Sitko is trying to have the application completed by April.

F) Conflict of Interest Ordinance

Commissioners reviewed the Town's Conflict of Interest Ordinance and spent some time discussing Section 10-1, item b 3) Personal interest.

Mr. Dattilo commented that he didn't feel that the Ordinance Review Committee held an impartial hearing of the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Joseph Dattilo to adjourn the February 4, 2013 meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:55 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Christine Pittsley.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary