

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MAY 6, 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

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Owen Waggoner of St. Peter's Church (departed at 7:45 p.m.); Town Council Liaison Sylvia Nichols (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 – April 1, 2013

The approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of April 1, 2013 was tabled until the next meeting of the Historic District Commission.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko mentioned to Commissioners that the Town of Cheshire and Cheshire Chamber of Commerce will be holding a Business Appreciation Day breakfast on June 6th at 7:30 am at Elim Park. The guest speaker will be Quinnipiac University President and Cheshire resident, John Lahey.

1. Letter of April 18, 2013 regarding the Hunt Farmstead / Leavenworth Tree Farm

Commissioners reviewed the letter and noted that the Leavenworth Tree Farm on Coleman Road has been accepted on to the State Registry of Historic Places.

2. Letter of April 30, 2013 regarding the Hitchcock Phillips's House

Commissioners reviewed the letter from Diane Calabro, President of the Cheshire Historical Society regarding their application for a 1772 Foundation Grant that would be used toward the purchase of a security system for the Hitchcock Phillip's House.

VIII. BUSINESS

- A) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - #2013-001C
Owen C. Waggoner, Jr. – St. Peter's Church
59 Main Street
Re: Fence

Mr. Sitko stated that he met with Mr. Waggoner and the Pastor of St. Peter's Church regarding their proposed fence project and noted that Mr. Waggoner was present tonight. Ms. Chesanow asked if there was a "wrong" side of the fence and Mr. Waggoner replied no. When asked the type of vinyl fence the church is proposing, Mr. Waggoner replied that it would be hollow, probably tan / sand in coloring.

Mr. Dattilo asked what is there now, where they would like to install the proposed fence and Mr. Waggoner replied there is a chain link fence now on the property line between St. Peter's Church and Humiston School.

Chairman Pratt Fox commented that the arbor noted on the project plans will be visible from a public right of way so it should be included as part of the application and public hearing for St. Peter's Church. Mr. Waggoner noted that the arbor would be made out of pressure treated wood. When asked, he stated that the proposed fence would be 6 feet tall and the arbor would be slightly taller than the fence.

Mr. Torello asked if a public hearing would be essential for this application and Commissioners said it would because there is no existing fence on St. Peter's property, so therefore it is a change to the property.

Chairman Pratt Fox asked about the location and length of fencing to which Mr. Waggoner showed the site plans and pointed out the location on the property for the proposed fence, which will be 36 feet along the Humiston School side of the property and 24 feet along the back of the property.

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo that the Historic District Commission accepts the Certificate of Appropriateness application from St. Peter's Church for a proposed fence and set a public hearing for 7:30 pm on Monday, May 20th. **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Waggoner stated that he has a list of abutting property owners and will notify them of the upcoming public hearing on May 20th. He will then supply an affidavit to the Commission that he has notified the appropriate property owners.

B) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she received an inquiry on April 15th from the Cheshire Historical Society regarding repairs to a step to the shed on the Hitchcock Phillip's property on Church Drive and she determined after consulting with Mr. Sitko and Ms. Chesanow that it was basic repair work and would not require a Certificate of Appropriateness application.

Chairman Pratt Fox talked about attending a Saving Wooster Square symposium last Saturday where, in talking with members of other Historic District Commissions, the 2 biggest problems facing these types of Commissions are replacing windows and vinyl siding. She noted that New Haven has 3 districts in the city and reviews approximately 20 applications each meeting.

C) Committees

1. Education / Community Outreach Committee
 - a. Plan of Conservation and Development

There was nothing new to report on the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire at this time.

b. Trolley Tour

Ms. Chesanow stated that she has started taking current photographs of the Cheshire Street area and talked about a huge barn being built on the Hilzinger property on Cheshire Street. The Trolley Tour Committee will be doing a test run on May 19th of their planned route and trying out parts of the script. Ms. Chesanow also noted that Tom Hyman has joined the Trolley Tour Committee.

Chairman Pratt Fox noted that the Cheshire Historical Society is applying for 2 grants. The first grant is from the Community Foundation of Waterbury for marketing of the Trolley Tour and the second grant is from Partners in Preservation for the printing of items related to the Trolley Tour.

The Trolley Tour is scheduled for Sunday, September 29th 2013; there will be three 90-minute tours that day and the cost will be \$20 per person

c. Recognition of property owners

Chairman Pratt Fox talked about the New Haven Trust plaque program that sells plaques to historic properties, at cost, to those that want them. The plaques are ceramic and cost \$60 each; property owners do not have to be in a historic district to purchase a plaque. Chairman Pratt Fox shared a photograph of the plaques with the Commission, showing the oval white plaque with navy blue print of the circa year of the property. Mr. Torello noted that Hines Hardware has a bronze-like plaque that they sell that perhaps could be used in Cheshire, which could be a dual promotion of historic properties by a historic local business.

Commissioners agreed they would like to move forward with promoting preservation outside of the local historic districts and would like to move forward with recognizing a Cheshire property. Mr. Torello offered to help with the moveable sign design for the recognition program.

2. Regulations / Rules

a. Design Guidelines

Mr. Torello stated that he has not yet moved forward with the Design Guidelines photograph project and he apologizes. Ms. Chesanow stated that she has recently taken pictures on Cheshire Street of which some may be applicable to the Design Guideline pictures the Commission has talked about.

It was agreed that the Regulations / Rules Committee would meet on June 3rd after the regular Historic District Commission meeting to review photographs that Ms. Chesanow has offered to share.

D) Certified Local Government

Mr. Sitko stated that the Town Attorney has reviewing the Certified Local Government application for Cheshire and he has no problem with it. Mr. Sitko hopes to finalize the application and have it before the Commission in June to review and approve. The application would then go to the Town Council for final approval before it is submitted.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to adjourn the May 6, 2013 meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:23 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary