

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanne Chesnow, Joseph Dattilo, Christine Pittsley, John Torello, Elizabeth Ryducha, Alternate, Breina Schain, Alternate and James Vibert, Sr., Alternate.

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

The roll was taken for the meeting.

**III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Chairman Pratt Fox seated alternate Commissioner Ryducha for voting tonight with the Historic District Commissioners.

**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 – Public Hearing and Regular Meeting – April 21, 2014**

**MOTION** by Ms. Schain to accept the April 21, 2014 minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: PAGE 3, second to last paragraph, last sentence should read, “Over the years both homes have gone through additions.”; PAGE 4, second complete paragraph, third sentence should read, “When asked by Breina Schain, Ms. Chesanow stated that Rick Sirois would be...”; PAGE 5 item E) 1. b. the correct spelling is Pat Vita; PAGE 6 item G), last sentence should read, “...Commission that in the meantime, they could look through CT Trust’s...” **SECONDED** by Ms. Chesanow.

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

The motion passed by those present.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Letter of 4/23/24 Re: COA Application for Cheshire Goldsmith

Commissioners reviewed the April 23, 2014 letter to the Historic District Commission from Cheshire Goldsmith, stating that they were withdrawing their Certificate of Appropriateness application for signage at 15 South Main Street.

2. Invitation from Cheshire Historical Society  
Re: Preservation Reception, May 18

**VIII. BUSINESS**

- A) Chairman’s Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she had heard back from Mary Dunn at the SHPO about the CLG Historic Resource Inventory. Ms. Dunne sent a sample RFP. She also confirmed that we can include the Alice Washburn-designed houses in the survey. The matter of funding historic district signs will be discussed at the next SHPO staff meeting.

Ball & Socket Arts will go before Planning & Zoning on June 9. Ms. Fox asked if any commissioners might be willing to attend. Both Mr. Dattilo and Ms. Chesanow planned to attend.

Greg Farmer, a Circuit Rider for the Connecticut Trust confirmed that the training session for state-wide commissioners will be held in Cheshire on October 20<sup>th</sup>. From 6:00-7:30 p.m. This is the same evening as a scheduled HDC meeting.

B) Committees

1. Education / Community Outreach Committee

a. Plan of Conservation and Development

The dates for the Plan of Conservation and Development meetings were included in this meeting's packet. The next meeting, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, will be devoted to the plan.

b. Trolley Tour – Sept 28, 2014

Ms. Chesanow stated that Pat Vita is now receiving reservations.

Recognition of property owners

Ms. Chesanow encouraged the commissioners to attend the reception at the history society on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m.

2. Regulations / Rules

a. Design Guidelines

Commissioners talked about sketches vs. photographs for examples in the Design Guidelines. It was agreed that a mixture of sketches and photographs would be appropriate. Mr. Torello stated that he has some booklets that will likely have some useful sketches that could be incorporated into the Design Guidelines.

D) Certified Local Government

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that an RFP will be needed for the Grant to do the historic property inventory survey update for Cheshire.

E) Televising Board and Commission Meetings

Mr. Sitko stated that a date for televising the Historic District Commission meeting has not yet been finalized.

**MOTION** by Elizabeth Pratt Fox that the Historic District Commission would like to add an item to this meeting's agenda entitled "F) Other"; **SECONDED** by John Torello.

This Motion passed by all those present.

\*NEW F) OTHER

Ms. Chesanow mentioned that she recently was reading the New Yorker magazine and saw a non-fiction article about a young woman growing up in Concord, MA and it was entitled "Personal History, Pilgrim Mothers". In the article, it references a lady's interaction with the "Ladies of Concord" which represented the town's Historic District Commission in the 1970's.

Mr. Dattilo mentioned that he and Mr. Torello recently were given a full tour of the Riverbound Farm located at 1882 Cheshire Street. He stated that it sounds like the Farm is going to be opened for tours; the structure is beautiful with large possibly chestnut beams. The Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society now owns the Riverbound Farm property. The main section of the farm building was built in 1814 and the addition was built not long after that (perhaps about 10 years later) but an exact year is not yet known.

Ms. Schain suggested that the Historic District Commission could at some point offer tours of different sections of Cheshire, either by trolley or walking tour. Ms. Chesanow talked about an application that was recently created that would narrate a walking tour of the center of Town, near the Town Green area.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Joe Dattilo to adjourn the May 5, 2014 meeting of the Historic District Commission at 9 p.m.; **SECONDED** by John Torello.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Ms. Pratt Fox, Ms. Chesanow, Mr. Dattilo, Mr. Torello, Ms. Ryducha, Ms. Schain, and Mr. Vibert.

Opposed – None

The motion passed by all those present.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary