

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanne Chesanow and James Vibert, Sr., Voting Alternate

Commissioners Absent:

Joseph Dattilo, Christine Pittsley, John Torello, Elizabeth Ryducha, Alternate and Breina Schain, Alternate

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Owen Waggoner of 637 Ashley Court for St. Peter's Church

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 seated Alternate member, James Vibert, 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. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - # 2015 – 005C
St. Peter's Church
59 Main Street
Re: Replacement of front door

Mr. Sitko read the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on July 23, 2015 and he stated that notarized, written proof that the abutting property owners were notified has been received by the Planning Department; there were no written comments submitted or verbal comments received on behalf of this application.

Chairman Pratt Fox reviewed Public Hearing rules and procedures and then opened the Public Hearing of St. Peter's Church for replacement of the front door at 59 Main Street. Mr. Waggoner was present at this Public Hearing on behalf of this application.

Mr. Waggoner explained that the current double front doors of St. Peter's Church are old wooden doors that have many repairs done to them over the years. The side door of the Church was in similar or worse condition when it was replaced a few years ago. The new front doors are proposed to be made out of mahogany and will match the exterior detail of the existing doors and have similar hardware. Mr. Waggoner also stated that the new front doors will be painted Episcopal red. Just like the existing front doors, the new doors will open in to the Church. Mr. Waggoner noted that there are 4 exits from the main Church building, excluding the front door of the Church. He also noted that St. Peter's Church is planning to use the same contractor that replaced the side door of the Church for the front door replacement.

Chairman Pratt Fox asked about the hardware proposed for this project. According to the detailed proposal for the front door project from the contractor, the hardware would be Emtek # 3349 oil rubbed bronze handle latch set, with dead bolt and full mortise back / lockset. Commissioners looked at the proposed hardware for the front door online and Chairman Pratt Fox noted that it appeared very modern looking. She asked if the existing hardware could be re-used on the new door? Mr. Waggoner replied no and noted that he was not sure who had selected this particular hardware that was listed in the contractor's proposal. Chairman Pratt Fox commented that she would prefer hardware that is a closer match to the existing hardware on the gothic revival style of the door / building.

Mr. Sitko noted that the Commission could make stipulations regarding the hardware, if they are incline to approve this application.

Mr. Vibert noted that there was not a brass kick plate on the existing front doors of St. Peter's Church and asked to confirm that there would not be one on the propose new front doors. Mr. Waggoner stated that he did not think there were kick plates planned for the new front door.

Ms. Chesanow agreed with Chairman Pratt Fox on her opinion of the proposed hardware. She suggested that St. Peter's Church do some research to find a closer match to the

existing black hardware and then share the final choice with the Commission, once a decision was made.

Chairman Pratt Fox proposed closing this Public Hearing at 7:47 p.m.

MOTION by James Vibert to close the Historic District Commission's Certificate of Appropriateness #2015-005C Public Hearing for St. Peter's Church application for the replacement of the front door at 59 Main Street; **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

B. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - # 2015 – 009C
Town of Cheshire
South Brooksvale Road
Re: signage for Historic District

Mr. Sitko read the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on July 23, 2015 and he stated that notarized, written proof that the abutting property owners were notified has been received by the Planning Department; there were no written comments submitted or verbal comments received on behalf of this application.

Chairman Pratt Fox reviewed Public Hearing rules and procedures and then opened the Public Hearing of the Town of Cheshire for signage on South Brooksvale Road for Historic District signage. Mr. Sitko was present at this Public Hearing on behalf of this application.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed South Brooksvale Historic District sign design. Mr. Sitko noted that there would be 2 signs installed in the Historic District and showed them on the map provided in this application. Mr. Sitko noted that the 2 signs will cost \$5,335 of which \$1,500 has been donated by the Julia Humiston Fund, \$ 800 has been donated by the Cheshire Historical Society which leaves a balance of \$3,035 for the signs. Mr. Sitko explained that the Town will be applying for a Certified Local Government grant for these remaining funds. The Cheshire Town Council approved the grant application at the end of July 2015. Mr. Sitko noted that the Historic District signs for South Brooksvale will be made out of a composite material, the same that was used for the Town Center / Cornwall Avenue Historic District and West Main Street signs.

Chairman Pratt Fox proposed closing this Public Hearing at 7:55 p.m.

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to close the Historic District Commission's Certificate of Appropriateness #2015-009C Public Hearing for Town of Cheshire's application for signage on South Brooksvale Road for the Historic District; **SECONDED** by James Vibert.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

VIII. REGULAR MEETING

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Public Hearing & Regular Meeting – July 6, 2015

MOTION by James Vibert to accept the July 6, 2015 Historic District Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Sitko shared information regarding the work that is currently underway in the Town Hall parking lot. He noted that 2 of the islands in the lot will be cut back to gain 4 additional parking spaces. Chairman Pratt Fox noted that the Commission had previously approved a change in the parking lot lights.

Mr. Sitko informed the Commissioners that W/S Development has decided not to go forward with the Lifestyle Center on the north end of Cheshire.

Mr. Sitko stated that Mr. Pitterman of South Brooksvale Road contacted him recently regarding the South Brooksvale Historic District sign design, stating that he felt the property owners in the District should have been involved in the design of the signage.

- A) Email of July 14, 2015 from Director of Public Works, George Noewatne
Re: Repointing west side of Old Town Hall and responses from
Commissioners Fox and Schain

Commissioners reviewed the email chain between George Noewatne, Chairman Pratt Fox and Alternate Commissioner Schain, noting that the work described in this email is for general maintenance projects. Chairman Pratt Fox noted that the work being done on the old Town Hall front steps is coming along very nicely.

3. BUSINESS

- A) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - #2015-005C
St. Peter's Church
59 Main Street
Re: Replacement of front door

Commissioners reviewed application # 2015-005C from St. Peter's Church at 59 Main Street for the replacement of the front door.

MOTION by James Vibert that the Historic District Commission approves the Certificate of Appropriateness application # 2015-005C from St. Peter's Church for the replacement of the front door at 59 Main Street with the following stipulations (1) no brass kick plate will be installed on the bottom of the new front door (2) the new lockset hardware will be of bronze material and be in a style that matches the existing front door hardware. **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

- B) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - #2015-009C
Town of Cheshire
South Brooksvale Road
Re: signage for Historic District

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow that the Historic District Commission approves the Certificate of Appropriateness application #2015-009C of the Town of Cheshire for signage in the South Brooksvale Historic District as submitted. **SECONDED** by James Vibert.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

- C) Committees
 - 1. Education / Community Outreach
 - a. Trolley Tour

The next Trolley Tour will be of the South Brooksvale Historic District and is scheduled for Sunday, October 4th; tickets are on sale for \$25 per person. Ms. Chesanow and Mr. Vibert are both working on the Tour with representatives from the Cheshire Historical Society, as well as Ms. Pittsley.

Mr. Vibert stated that he is working on finalizing the tour route and timing, which will incorporate a stop at Jean McKee's property. Ms. Chesanow and Mr. Vibert are also working on the script for the tour.

D) Grant Application for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs

Chairman Pratt Fox informed the Commissioners that the Cheshire Historical Society has donated \$800 toward the South Brooksvale Historic District signage and the Julia Humiston Fund has committed to a \$1,500 donation. The Town is in the process of applying to the State for a Certified Local Government grant in the amount of \$3,035 for the balance of the signs and installation. Mr. Sitko noted that 3 bids will be needed from sign companies for submission with the grant application.

E) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that she wrote an email to Artsplace regarding the John Frederick Kensett replica doll as part of the 200th Birthday Celebration. She stated that famed artist John Frederick Kensett was born in Cheshire 199 years ago and the group is working to mark the 200th anniversary of Kensett's birth next year. Ms. Chesanow stated that Cheshirepedia is working to develop a Kensett Kocktail for a social event they are planning in August.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by James Vibert to adjourn the August 4, 2015 Special Meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:18 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor – Chesanow, Pratt Fox and Vibert, Voting Alternate
Opposed – None

The motion passed 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary