

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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:

Francis Miller of Conserve ART (departed at 8:45 p.m.); Timothy Slocum, Council Chairman and Julia Humiston Trustee (departed at 8:45 p.m.); Ted Hulsman of First Congregational Church (arrived at 8:00 p.m. and departed at 8:45 p.m.); Agnes Wnuk of Artsplace

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 seated alternate Commissioner 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Public Hearing & Special Meeting–August 4, 2015

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the August 4, 2015 minutes of the Public Hearing and Special Meeting as submitted SECONDED by James Vibert.

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

The motion passed 3 - 0.

VII. APPROVAL OF 2016 HDC MEETING DATES

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to accept the 2016 Historic District Commission Meeting Dates as presented with the exception of the first October 2016 meeting being changed to Tuesday, October 4, 2016 due to Rosh Hashanah. SECONDED by James Vibert.

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

The motion passed 3 - 0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter of 7/20/15 from Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Mr. Sitko reviewed the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation's letter with the Commission.

IX. BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Francis Miller of Conserve ART re: Civil War Monument

Mr. Francis Miller of Conserve ART was present at this meeting of the Historic District Commission to review his findings after inspecting the Civil War Monument on the Town Green and to share the options for preserving the monument ahead of the 150 Year celebration planned for next Summer. Mr. Sitko noted that Mr. Miller comes highly recommended for this project and will layout a couple of treatment options.

Mr. Miller informed the Commissioners that the bronze on the monument was treated with a brown coating at some point. The stone is granite and there are 4 bronze plaques with rosettes that anchor the plaques to the granite, hiding the hardware. A few of the rosettes are missing or broken. Mr. Miller noted that the brown coating was also used on the World War I monument across the street and added that the bronze had weathered before the brown coating was applied. No coating analysis has been done but Mr. Miller

noted that it easily can be taken off and estimates that it was applied in the 1960's or 1970's. There is a notch missing from the Civil War Monument and also some small sections are missing on some of the stone letters on the Monument. Mr. Miller stated that there are some options to repair these areas of the monument. He also noted that the lead can be re-pointed to match the original lead used to connect the pieces of the monument.

While discussing cleaning options, Commissioners agreed that they would not want to see the monument "over-cleaned" as it is 150 years old and should not look brand new but they do want to slow down or stop any active corrosion.

Mr. Miller explained that waxes will deepen the color of the monument the most but requires maintenance every 3-5 years. Incalac has a lighter color finish and requires less maintenance, every 15-20 years. The materials cost is about the same for the wax and incralac but Patination is an additional cost, if desired. Mr. Miller stated that once the brown coating is removed, everyone should have a better idea of the direction to go in for the preservation of the Monument. Depending on the work that is needed to preserve the Civil War Monument, the cost range from Mr. Miller is \$10,000-\$20,000. Maintenance every 3-5 years for the wax coating will be around \$ 2,000 and the cost will be the same for the Incalac, but it would be every 15-20 years. Everyone agreed that once the Monument is cleaned, then a decision can be made on how to proceed. When asked, Mr. Miller explained that the basic bio cleaning would be done carefully with an anti-microbial solution and a power washer.

Mr. Sitko explained that the Town is planning to install a paver walkway up to and around the Civil War Monument and asked if this would affect the Monument work? Mr. Miller stated that is would depend on the material but he could use precautions to protect the area around the Monument.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Miller for coming and for all the information he shared tonight.

B. Committees

1. Education / Community Outreach

a. Plan of Conservation and Development

Chairman Pratt Fox commented that she was very pleased with the approach toward preservation in the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire. Mr. Sitko will send a link to the latest draft of the Plan to Commissioners for their review.

b. Trolley Tour

The Trolley Tours were held yesterday and it was an excellent day with a great turnout of people of all ages. Commissioners commented that Jean McKee was very gracious with the use and tours of her property and everyone agreed that Jim, Tim and Scott did a great job!

2. Regulations / Rules

a. Design Guidelines

The Design Guidelines are a continued work in progress by Chairman Pratt Fox and will be presented to the Commission once they are completed.

C. Grant Application for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs

The State Historic Preservation Office will be meeting on October 7th to discuss Cheshire's application for a \$3,035 Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, under the Certified Local Government program for the South Brooksvale Historic District signs.

D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox will be drafting a letter of agreement with the Cheshire Historical Society for the Trolley Tour program.

Chairman Pratt Fox and Agnes Wnuk, of Artplace, revealed the John Frederick Kenseth doll to the Commission and talked about the Facebook page that was created to help celebrate his upcoming 200th birthday, on March 22, 2016. The John Frederick Kenseth doll will be at the November 10th Town Council meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow to adjourn the October 5, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission at 9:10 p.m. **SECONDED** by James Vibert.

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

The motion passed 3 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary