

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanne Chesanow, Christine Pittsley (arrived at 7:33 p.m.) and James Vibert, Sr., Voting Alternate

Commissioners Absent:

Joseph Dattilo, John Torello and Elizabeth Ryducha, Alternate

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator and George Noewatne, Public Works Director

Others Present:

Captain Edward (Ted) Holtzman, USCG of 1227 Wolf Hill Road for First Congregational Church (departed at 7:41 p.m.); Owen (Charlie) Waggoner of 637 Ashley Court for St. Peter's Church; Town Council Liaison, Patti Flynn-Harris

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. WELCOME COUNCIL LIAISON PATTI FLYNN-HARRIS

Commissioners welcomed Council Liaison Patti Flynn-Harris to the Historic District Commission.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - # 2015 – 011C
Town of Cheshire Public Works
First Congregational Church green (111 Church Drive)
Re: Construction of base around Civil War Monument

Mr. Sitko read the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on December 24, 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 Public Works Department for the construction of a base around the Civil War Monument at 111 Church Drive / First Congregational Church green. Mr. Noewatne, Director of Public Works, was present at this Public Hearing on behalf of this application. Captain Holtzman was also present on behalf of the First Congregational Church on behalf of this application.

Mr. Noewatne stated that this Civil War Monument is the 3rd oldest in the State, the Town would like to add the base around the monument, which will be made of bluestone and will have a granite curbing to hold the stone in place. It was noted that the First Congregation Church has used these products in their garden.

Mr. Sitko talked about the restoration of the Civil War Monument that is planned for the Spring, in advance of the 150th Anniversary celebration planned for July 9, 2016 of the monument.

Commissioners asked about the pattern that would be used for the bluestone placement of the base and were told at their prior suggestion, it will not be a herringbone pattern because of the smaller pieces that would have had to been used.

Captain Holtzman commented that there was a concern for the soil that has been lost around the monument. Mr. Noewatne noted that as part of the bluestone installation, additional topsoil will be brought in to add a slight pitch away from the monument, which will help with water run off.

Public Comment

None.

Chairman Pratt Fox proposed closing this Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

MOTION by Christine Pittsley to close the Historic District Commission's Certificate of Appropriateness #2015-011C Public Hearing for the Town of Cheshire Public Works Department application for the construction of a base around the Civil War Monument at 111 Church Drive, First Congregational Church green; **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

VIII. REGULAR MEETING

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting – December 7, 2015

MOTION by Christine Pittsley to accept the December 7, 2015 Historic District Commission Regular Meeting minutes with the following changes: Page 1 Call to Order and Seating of Alternate Commissioner were both done by Vice Chairman Chesanow; Page 2 Election of Officers, the correction position for Joseph Datillo is Clerk. **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners reviewed the letter from Town Manager Michael Milone to Agnes Wnuk, which thanked her for her time, effort and creativity that she devoted to the creation of the John Frederick Kensett doll, which is being used to mark the Bicentennial celebration of his birth in Cheshire.

3. BUSINESS

- A) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - #2015-011C
Town of Cheshire Public Works
First Congregational Church green (111 Church Drive)
Re: Construction of base around Civil War Monument

Commissioners reviewed application # 2015-011C from the Town of Cheshire Public Works Department for the construction of a base around the Civil War Monument at 111 Church Drive / First Congregational Church green. Ms. Chesanow noted that the proposed project seems very practical and will be good looking. Chairman Pratt Fox added that the proportions will be right and it will be a nice size.

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow that the Historic District Commission approves the Certificate of Appropriateness application # 2015-011C from the Town of Cheshire Public Works Department for the construction of a base around the Civil War Monument at 111 Church Drive / First Congregational Church green as submitted. **SECONDED** by Christine Pittsley.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Chairman Pratt Fox noted that the monument's actual name is Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

- B) Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - #2016-001C
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
59 Main Street
Re: Stained Glass Restoration

Commissioners briefly reviewed Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness # 2016-001C from St. Peter's Episcopal Church for stained glass restoration at 59 Main Street. Chairman Pratt Fox asked if the window labeled in the application as # 25 will be removed and sent out for restoration? Mr. Waggoner replied yes, it will be disassembled and re-glazed and re-leaded. He added that there will be 5 south side windows that will be removed, restored and re-installed.

Mr. Waggoner stated that they received 3 proposals for the stained glass restoration project at the Church, 2 were similar in their scope of work and 1 was different. All the stained glass windows on the church currently have a protective Plexiglas covering, which is currently discolored. These coverings will all be replaced as part of this project.

Chairman Pratt Fox expressed some concern with covering the stained glass windows and the visual effect it has on the exterior of the Church compared to when it was originally installed. She asked if there is any alternative to the new covering that is being proposed? Mr. Waggoner stated that the only alternative he is aware of would be to put the existing Plexiglas back up after the stained glass windows are restored. Mr. Vibert commented that it would be nice if the stained glass windows could be seen from the outside of the Church.

Chairman Pratt Fox noted that there is a proposed change in materials and that a Public Hearing would be required for this application. Mr. Waggoner informed the Commission that the State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed and approved this stained glass restoration project at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

MOTION by Jeanne Chesanow that the Historic District Commission accepts the Certificate of Appropriateness application #2016-001C from St. Peter's Episcopal Church for stained glass restoration at 59 Main Street and sets a Public Hearing for Monday February 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. **SECONDED** by Christine Pittsley.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

C) Committees

1. Education / Community Outreach

With regards to the next Trolley Tour, Mr. Sitko, Ms. Calabro and Chairman Pratt Fox have met and will be working on a Memorandum of Agreement for going forward with the Trolley Tours, which will clearly spell out the responsibilities for each group in the organization of these tours. Chairman Chesanow stated that this year's Trolley Tour will be of the South Brooksvale Historic District again. Mr. Vibert suggested that perhaps another area of Cheshire could be highlighted this year.

It was noted that Elim Park has asked that a "South Brooksvale Trolley Tour" be done for their residents in May, using one of their buses.

a. Plan of Conservation and Development

Chairman Pratt Fox and Ms. Chesanow will be preparing comments to be submitted for consideration in the final draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development for Cheshire.

2. Regulations / Rules

a. Design Guidelines

Chairman Pratt Fox noted that finalizing the Design Guidelines revisions is a major goal of hers for 2016.

D) Grant for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs

The Town Council accepted a State of Connecticut Certified Local Government grant in the amount of \$3,035 to be used towards the purchase of South Brooksvale Historic District signs and their installation. 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. Mr. Sitko noted that a letter will go out to property owners soon regarding the sign installations, which will be done in the Spring.

E) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox reviewed the list of 2015 activity for the Commission and the 2016 Goals. She also talked about planning for a Historic Resource Survey of properties in Cheshire, which could be done through a Certified Local Government program that funds up to \$50,000 for such a study. Chairman Pratt Fox noted that a study was last done for Cheshire in 1986, which included 83 properties, of which 80 still exist in Cheshire.

Chairman Pratt Fox also commented that she was excited to have the John Frederick Kensett doll in attendance at tonight's meeting and noted that he now has 107 friends on the Facebook page that commemorates the 200th Anniversary of his birth in Cheshire.

F) Other

Mr. Vibert asked if there has been an update on the window correction project at the Lewis property on Cornwall Avenue? Mr. Sitko noted that he has been told that we should see some activity later this month and added that building permits for the work have already been taken out. It was noted that a property owner has 2 years to complete work on an approved Certificate of Appropriateness project.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by James Vibert to adjourn the January 4, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:08 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Jeanne Chesanow.

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

The motion passed 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary