

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL - 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanné Chesanow, James Dattilo, John Torello (5:44p.m.) and James Vibert, Sr., Voting Alternate

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley and Elizabeth Ryducha, Alternate

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken for the meeting.

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Chairman Pratt Fox did not seat any Alternate Commissioners for voting tonight with the Historic District Commission.

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. Certificate of Appropriateness #2016-002C
Paul Johnson and Alison McWeeney
152 Cornwall Avenue
Deck for above ground pool

Mr. Dattilo read the Certificate of Appropriateness and the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on March 24, 2016 and he stated that notarized, written proof that the abutting property owners were notified has been received by the Planning Department; there were no verbal comments and only one written comment received by Loraine Butler in favor of this application.

Ms. McWeeney presented sketches and photos of the proposed deck and materials to be used. Ms. McWeeney confirmed that the deck will be wrapped around the pool and not attached to the house. Ms. McWeeney stated she was unsure about the material that will be used for the lattice, but the brand is Colorguard.

Discussion

Chairman Pratt Fox opened the Public Hearing up for discussion. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the documents presented.

Public Comment

Mr. Sitko said that Lorraine Butler, 151 Cornwall Avenue, has provided a written statement of support for this application.

Chairman Pratt Fox proposed closing this Public Hearing at 5:09 p.m.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Public Hearing and Regular Meeting - March 7, 2016

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of March 7, 2016 with the following corrections:

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting as corrected, under Education/Community Outreach, with regard to the Trolley Tour, it should state that Jeanné Chesanow is working on a draft "motion," not "Memorandum of Understanding" and under Grant for South Brooksvale Historic District Signs, it should state that a written request for the match "was," not "will also be" submitted to the Julia Humiston Fund.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow.

The motion passed 3-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Jerry Sitko stated that a letter was received from George Noewatne from Public Works regarding the Farmington Canal opening in May. Jerry Sitko stated that the historic markers should be included and invited the Commissioners to attend the informal meeting on April 6, 2016 at 6:30 in Council Chambers. Jeanné Chesanow agreed to attend.

IX. BUSINESS

- A) Certificate of Appropriateness 2016-002C
Paul Johnson and Alison McWeeney
152 Cornwall Avenue
Deck for above ground pool

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to accept the Certificate of Appropriateness 2016-002C by Paul Johnson and Alison McWeeney with the request of gentle blending with landscaping be included.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow

The motion passed 3-0.

- B) Certificate of Appropriateness 2016-003C
Public Works Department
84 South Main Street
Granite base around Veterans Memorial at Town Hall

Jerry Sitko stated that Public Works is interested in getting this project fast tracked so that it can be completed in time for the Memorial Day parade. The Commissioners reviewed the site plan. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners stated they would like to see actual samples of the materials to be used.

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to send this project to Public Hearing on April 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow

The motion passed 3-0.

C) Committees

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

Jerry Sitko stated that no action has been taken by the Town Council on the Plan of Conservation and Development.

- b. Trolley Tour

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to enter the March 2, 2016 email from Diane Calabro as an attachment to the minutes.

SECONDED by John Torello

The motion passed 4-0.

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo that having received an email on March 2, 2016 from Diane Calabro, President of the Cheshire Historical Society, stating that "The Board was not in favor of a document that splits profits," the Commissioners have decided that without a

Memorandum of Understanding that divides profits, it would be difficult to continue the partnership. The Historic District Commission hereby invites the President members of the Cheshire Historical Society Board to attend the April 18, 2016 meeting to discuss the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

SECONDED by John Torello

The motion passed 4-0.

c. Kensett Doll

Chairman Pratt Fox stated she has been travelling and taking photographs with the Kensett Doll and is interested in suggestions of other places to take the Kensett Doll.

2. Regulations/Rules

a. Design Guidelines

No changes.

D) South Brooksvale Historic District Signs

There was no update on this matter.

E) Chairman's Report

Chairman Pratt Fox stated that in response to a recent letter from the Town regarding emails being shared with the public, she has declined having her email shared. Chairman Pratt Fox stated as a regulatory commission, the Commissioners should not be emailing directly with the public. Mr. Dattilo mentioned that he did not want his e-mail made public to avoid receiving spam messages.

F) Other

John Torello stated he will resign from his permanent position and James Vibert will take his place. Chairman Pratt Fox stated this change is in

progress with the Nominating Committee and may take some time.
Chairman Pratt Fox stated that Elizabeth Ryducha will also be appointed to a position elsewhere.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Jeanné Chesanow to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.. **SECONDED** by John Torello.

The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen M. Gill".

Karen M. Gill
Recording Secretary

Sitko, Jerry

From: Calabro, Diane <Diane.Calabro@bms.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Sitko, Jerry
Subject: RE: Statement from the Cheshire Historical Society about the draft MOU for the HDC

Dear Jerry,

Could you please share with the HDC:

The Cheshire Historical Society Board met on February 15th. We discussed the proposed MOU between the HDC, Cheshirepedia, and the Society for the Trolley Tour. The Board was in favor of the concept of a MOU that lists shared tasks and responsibilities. The Board also recognizes and appreciates the time and effort put into writing the booklets, mapping out the tour route, and all of the research involved. The Board was not in favor of a document that splits profits.

In terms of profit sharing, the majority of the Board said no. The consensus was that this is not appropriate. They queried: What is the role of the HDC, what do they do and why do they want the money? Many wondered why a regulatory commission is developing history programs. Many said they can't see paying the HDC directly. As explained by one Director, we already pay taxes to the Town so why should the Society, a non-profit, be asked to pay money to the Town as this sounds like another way of generating tax revenue. Another asked what the HDC role will be once the four tours are in place, scripts are written, and booklets are printed? Will the HDC be around to help with logistics for future events? Another asked if this MOU was designed to carry this profit sharing beyond the point that all four tours are established when HDC has less of a role or no role at all.

The Board was favorable about project-driven donations to either group, such as the \$800 donation made for South Brooksvale signage. The Board agreed they were proud to be able to provide assistance in this tangible way of offering to help pay for specific enhancements to the Historic Districts.

If it would be useful to have Society Board Members attend your next meeting to continue this discussion face to face, let me know and I'll see who can be available.

Thank you,
Diane Calabro
President
Cheshire Historical Society

From: Sitko, Jerry [<mailto:jsitko@cheshirect.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Calabro, Diane <Diane.Calabro@bms.com>
Subject: Statement from the Cheshire Historical Society about the draft MOU for the HDC

Diane, the meeting packet will be sent out this Thursday afternoon. Will you have the statement for the HDC?
Thank you.
Jerry

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