

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL - 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanné Chesanow, James Dattilo

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley, John Torello, Elizabeth Ryducha, and James Vibert, Sr.

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Patti Flynn-Harris, Town Council, George Noewatne, Public Works, Jake Miller

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:33 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. INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Chairman Pratt Fox amended the agenda to have an informal discussion with Jake Miller about the proposed signage for the Hitchcock-Phillips House. Jake Miller presented the proposed signage including details about size, materials and the process of manufacturing. The Commissioners reviewed the proposal and recommended that the Cheshire Historical Society file an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for consideration at the May meeting of the Historic District Commission.

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. Certificate of Appropriateness #2016-003C  
Public Works Department  
84 South Main Street  
Granite base around the Veterans Memorial at Town Hall

Mr. Dattilo read the Certificate of Appropriateness and the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on April 7, 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 or written comments.

George Noewatne of the Public Works Department presented the proposed work to be done at the site of the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Noewatne stated the site has aggressively deteriorated since it was built in 1990. Mr. Noewatne stated the scope of work will include replacing the original brick with granite pavers, installing conduits for lighting, changing the existing lighting to lower wattage LED lighting, the addition of boxwood plantings to conceal the lighting fixtures and capping the low walls with blue stone for better protection and longevity.

Discussion

Chairman Pratt Fox opened the Public Hearing up for discussion. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the documents presented. It was suggested that a ground cover be used instead of boxwoods.

Public Comment

Mark Nash, Post Office Box 539 stated he is the son and the father of war veterans and this project is personal to him. Mr. Nash stated he understood the project was moving quickly to be completed in time for the Memorial Day Parade; however he wanted the Historic District Commission to consider a different scope to the project. Mr. Nash stated the Veterans Memorial should be reengineered to properly honor the large population of veterans in Town and to draw attention to it.

John White – 60 Pound Ridge Road stated he was in favor of the renovation and would like consideration to be given to making the site more visible to the public.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Sitko stated the charge of the Historic District Commission was to determine the appropriateness of the plan, not to weigh in on how it is implemented.

Mr. Noewatne stated the Public Works Department is looking for clear direction about moving this project forward to be completed in time for the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Noewatne stated he is open to conversations about a change in scope as long as it falls within the generous budget allocated by the Town Council.

**MOTION** by Joseph Dattilo to close the Public Hearing at 8:29 p.m.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor – Pratt Fox  
Opposed - None

Motion passed 3-0.

**VIII. REGULAR MEETING**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Public Hearing and Regular Meeting – April 5, 2016**

**MOTION** by Joseph Dattilo to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 5, 2016 with the following correction:

1. A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Joseph Dattilo at 5:09 p.m. Seconded by Jeanné Chesanow and passed unanimously by those present.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor - Pratt Fox  
Opposed - None

The motion passed 3-0.

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**X. BUSINESS**

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

**MOTION** by Joseph Dattilo to accept the Certificate of Appropriateness 2016-003C by the Public Works Department.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow

VOTE: In Favor - Pratt-Fox

Opposed: None

The motion passed 3-0.

B) Discussion with the Cheshire Historical Society

This discussion was tabled due to the fact that a letter had been received from the Cheshire Historical Society today and the Commissioners did not have enough to read it and formulate a response.

Ms. Chesnow stated her response to questions from the March 2, 2016 email sent by Diane Calabro on behalf of the Board of the Cheshire Historical Society. The members of the Historic District Commission agreed it would be appropriate for Ms. Chesnow to draft a formal response to the Board of the Cheshire Historical Society based on her statements.

C) Committees

1. Education/Community Outreach

a. Plan of Conservation and Development

Patti Flynn-Harris stated the Town Council is in receipt of the Plan of Conservation and Development and it has been moved from the bottom of the pile.

b. Kensett Doll

Chairman Pratt Fox stated the Kensett Doll made a trip to the Hartford State Library and was photographed with Ken Wiggins, the State Librarian. Chairman Pratt Fox stated the Kensett Doll will be going to the hike at Roaring Brook State Park this coming weekend and also going to a concert by the Community Chorus on April 30, 2016 at Cheshire High School.

2. Regulations/Rules

a. Design Guidelines

No changes.

C) South Brooksvale Historic District Signs

Jerry Sitko stated he has contacted the sign maker and expects this project to be done in August or September.

D) Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report.

E) Other

None.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Joseph Dattilo to adjourn at 8:59 p.m.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow.

VOTE: In Favor Pratt Fox  
Opposed - None

The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill  
Recording Secretary