

**CHESHIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016 AT 7:30 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL - 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Jeanné Chesanow, James Vibert, Sr., James Dattilo and John Torello

Commissioners Absent:

Christine Pittsley and Elizabeth Ryducha,

Staff Present:

Jerry Sitko, Economic Development Coordinator

Others Present:

Diane Calabro, Cheshire Historical Society, Jake Miller

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pratt Fox called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 #2016-004C
The Cheshire Historical Society (on behalf of Jake Miller)
43 Church Drive
Signage for Hitchcock-Phillips House

Mr. Sitko read the Certificate of Appropriateness and the public notice for this Public Hearing as it appeared in the Cheshire Herald on May 5, 2016 and he stated that notarized, written proof that the abutting property owners were notified has been received by the Planning Department; there was one verbal communication from Ned Grayeb of 48 Bennett Avenue who was in attendance at the meeting.

Diane Calabro of 1731 Peck Lane and President of the Cheshire Historical Society stated the idea for a way finding sign was conceived based on survey results showing that a large percentage of residents were unaware of the location of the Cheshire Historical Society building. Diane Calabro stated the current sign is small, perpendicular with the house and difficult to read, especially from Route 10. Diane Calabro stated it was decided to have a new sign made by Jake Miller as a boy scout Eagle project.

Jake Miller stated the lighting has been taken out of the application due to zoning. Jake Miller stated the current sign will be removed and the new sign will be installed in a different location. Jake Miller stated the materials to be used for the sign was changed from wood to an Apex composite material for longevity and durability.

Discussion

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

Public Comment

Ned Grayeb of 48 Bennett Avenue stated he is not opposed to the sign, but is concerned about illumination. Diane Calabro stated lighting is not part of the proposed sign at this time.

Breina Schain of 62 Hilltop Road asked what will happen to the old sign. Diane Calabro stated the old sign will be taken down and mounted inside of the building.

MOTION by Joseph Dattilo to close the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

SECONDED by James Vibert., Sr.

VOTE: In Favor – Pratt Fox, Chesanow
Opposed - None

Motion passed 4-0.

VII. REGULAR MEETING

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting – May 2, 2016

MOTION by Jeanné Chesanow to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 2, 2016 as submitted.

SECONDED by James Vibert, Sr.

VOTE: In Favor - Pratt Fox, Dattilo
Opposed - None

The motion passed 4-0.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Pratt Fox stated there was an article in The Cheshire Herald about the renovation to the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

IX. 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 Jeanné Chesanow to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness 2016-0004C filed by The Cheshire Historical Society (on behalf of Jake Miller) for signage for the Hitchcock-Phillips House as submitted, with a change in material from wood to Apex composite, a change in the size of the lettering from 3" to 4" and with the understanding that any changes made after consultation with the design professional will be communicated to the Historic District Commission.

SECONDED by James Vibert, Sr.

VOTE: In Favor - Pratt Fox, Dattilo
Opposed - None

Motion passed 4-0

- B) Discussion with the Cheshire Historical Society

Jeanné Chesanow read her response to the questions stated in Diane Calabro's March 2, 2016 about the roles and responsibilities of the Historic District Commission. Jeanné Chesanow stated the Historic District Commission is a regulatory commission and as a Certified Local Government is eligible for funds and grants to be matched by the State. Diane Calabro thanked Jeanné Chesanow for her response and indicated the Certified Local Government piece was a clarifying point.

Diane Calabro suggested alternating years for the Trolley Tour to give each agency (Cheshire Historical Society, Historic District Commission and Cheshirepedia) the opportunity to do the work and keep the profits.

John Fournier of 18 Quarry Village and President of Cheshirepedia stated he likes the cooperation of all three agencies being involved and showing the public and the Town the great things agencies can do together.

After a lengthy discussion about ways to maintain this partnership, Mr. Sitko suggested the Trolley Tour subcommittee reconvene in an effort to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding that is agreeable to all parties.

MOTION by James Vibert, Sr. for the Historic District Commission and the Cheshire Historical Society to participate in the Trolley Tour for 2016 based on a Memorandum of Understanding which will be negotiated by the subcommittee.

SECONDED by Jeanné Chesanow

VOTE: In Favor – Dattilo

Opposed – None

Abstained – Pratt Fox

Motion passed 3-0-1

C) Committees

1. Education/Community Outreach

a. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Sitko stated the Plan of Conservation and Development is on the agenda for the May 24, 2016 Town council meeting.

2. Regulations/Rules

a. Design Guidelines

No changes.

D) Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report.

E) Other

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by James Vibert, Sr. to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

SECONDED by Joseph Dattilo.

VOTE: In Favor Pratt Fox, Chesanow
Opposed - None

The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill
Recording Secretary