

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL
MEETING STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, November 2, 2022 @ 9:30 am
Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams**

MINUTES

Council: Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Mr. Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Ms. Christine Nelson – Vice Chairwoman, Ms. Sara Nelson

Absent: Chairman Thomas Elmore, Dr. Sarah Sportman

Staff: Mr. Cory Atkinson, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Melissa Diaz, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Cathy Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine, Ms. Jenny Scofield, Ms. Liz Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski

Guests: Ms. Susan Kinsman
Ms. Barbara Muldoon
Ms. Jean Luddy
Mr. Mike Forino
Ms. Jane Montanaro
Ms. Alexia Belperron
Mr. Christopher Wigren
Mr. Robert Hurd
Ms. Laura Boyer

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairwoman Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Vice-Chairwoman Nelson read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Vice-Chairwoman Nelson read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interests and asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Dr. Glaser recused herself from item V.A.3. Ms. Acly recused herself from item V.B.1.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

A. September 7, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. S. Nelson, the Council voted to approve

the September 7, 2022 meeting minutes.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-3. Absent-2, Recused -0) (Roll call vote)

B. October 5, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. S. Nelson, the Council voted to approve the October 5, 2022 meeting minutes.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-3. Absent-2, Recused -0) (Roll call vote)

V. **State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items**

A. **Unfinished Action Items**

I. Historic Restoration Fund Grant Amount Increase, First Church of Christ Congregational of East Haddam, \$5,670 to cover increased cost of wood shingles for roof replacement. 499 Town Street, PO Box 445, East Haddam

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a \$5,670 Historic Restoration Fund grant amount increase, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: First Church of Christ Congregational of East Haddam

Amount: \$5,670

Ms. Fink presented this application. The First Church of Christ Congregational of East Haddam requested additional funds in the amount of \$5,670 to cover 50% of the increased cost of cedar shake shingles. The total cost increase of the materials, since the original grant award, was \$11,340.

Ms. Adusei asked why the work was getting started almost a year after the initial grant award. Ms. Fink responded that she believed the organization had a difficult time getting a contractor on board and the contractor's schedule was also busy. Ms. Susan Kinsman was on the call to comment on this question as well. Ms. Kinsman indicated that the first time they put the project out to bid, they only received one response. They received three bids the second time, which was in June 2022. The materials were ordered in June and the contractor has confirmed that the work should be completed by 11/15/22.

Ms. S. Nelson commented that the original grant application was approved by Council and that, therefore, this item did not need to be called back to the table, which Vice-Chairwoman Nelson had originally requested a motion and second for. Vice-Chairwoman Nelson thanked Ms. S. Nelson for the clarification.

2. Historic Restoration Fund Grant Amount Increase, The Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society, Inc., \$71,836 to cover the difference between the anticipated project cost and bid amount, 1907 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council brought this item forward for discussion.

Ms. Fink presented this item. The Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society, Inc. requested additional funding in the amount of \$71,836 to cover the difference between the anticipated cost of their project and the amount of the bid they received. Alexia Belperron was on the call to answer any questions on behalf of the applicant.

Ms. Adusei asked about the contingency amount and whether it was based on the original (lower cost) and the new higher cost. Ms. Adusei was concerned that they could run into a similar problem again if the contingency is too low. Ms. Belperron replied that the contingency was based on the original estimate amount. Ms. S. Nelson commented that the contingency is really for the owner and would not typically be built into the bid. Ms. Adusei agreed and recommended that the applicant ensure that their contingency is sufficient to cover any additional unexpected costs and to confirm how long the contractor will honor the current cost.

To ensure that a sufficient contingency was in place, Council determined that the best course of action would be to defeat the original motion to award an additional \$71,836 and to put forward a new motion with an increased funding amount to provide a more sufficient contingency. Vice Chairwoman Nelson called for a roll call vote on the original motion. The original motion was defeated as follows:

(Y-0, N-7, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Fink calculated a new increased funding amount of \$96,223, which included a 20% contingency.

Vice-Chairwoman Nelson asked for a new motion.

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, (the motion did not appear to be seconded at the meeting), the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a \$96,223 Historic Restoration Fund grant amount increase, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society, Inc.
Amount: \$96,223

3. Partners in Preservation Grant, Preservation Connecticut, increase to March 3, 2021 grant award for documentation of landscapes in Connecticut designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and the Olmsted Firm

Dr. Glaser Leah recused herself from the meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. S. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a \$5,000 Partners in Preservation grant amount increase, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Preservation Connecticut

Amount: \$5,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Preservation Connecticut requested additional funding in the amount of \$5,000 to cover a minor increase in the final cost of the project. This grant was originally awarded in March 2021, and it has been a huge success. The deliverable was great and associated outreach activities have also been held. While developing the original scope of work, the number of properties was estimated at 150 with the understanding that they all might not be accessible. As the project progressed, it became clear that the number of accessible sites would be lower, so the consultant was encouraged to conduct additional intensive-level survey work at some of the sites that warranted a more in-depth investigation. This additional work resulted in a small increase to the final cost. Jenny Scofield and Chris Wigren were available on the call to answer any questions.

Mr. Wigren commented that he wanted to make sure Council understood this was not something that the consultant sprang on Preservation Connecticut and SHPO at the last minute. The consultant was working with both organizations the entire time and the final additional amount was only calculated recently.

Ms. Scofield added that when the project was designed, the budget was always very tight. However, this increase is very small compared to the scale of the overall project and the increase had to do with additional work that was performed.

Mr. Butkus asked how many sites ended up being surveyed. Mr. Wigren responded that 139 sites were surveyed, and 129 survey forms were completed. Hillside Cemetery in Torrington was surveyed as were several individual burial plots that were all covered on a single form.

Dr. Glaser returned to the meeting.

4. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Church of Christ Congregational, restoration and re-installation of the steeple, 6 Litchfield Road, Norfolk

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Mr. Butkus, the Historic Preservation Council voted to call this item to the table and to immediately table it again for two months, until the January 4, 2023 meeting.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-3, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

B. New Action Items

1. Survey and Planning Grant, Hicks-Stearns Family Museum, Condition Assessment, 42 Tolland Green, Tolland

Ms. Acly recused herself from the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Butkus, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of Tolland

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Tolland requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified architect and team to prepare a condition assessment of the Hicks-Stearns Family Museum, located at 42 Tolland Green, Tolland. The Museum received a TAC (technical assistance consultancy) grant from Preservation Connecticut a few years ago, which is funded through the Circuit Rider program. The TAC grants are intended to provide quick and cursory analyses of buildings. It did exactly what SHPO had hoped and recommended that the applicant apply for a more in-depth condition assessment of the building. However, the applicant would like to have their main building and a carriage house assessed, both of which are large buildings. Ms. Dunne was not certain that the \$40,000 budget would be sufficient to cover everything, including measured drawings, so the RFP will be structured to include add/alts and they will see what kind of responses they get. It appears that the primary issues are related to moisture, so they may focus more on that.

Ms. Adusei commented that she had similar budget concerns.

Ms. Acly returned to the meeting.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, Park Congregational Church, Condition Assessment, 283 Broadway, Norwich

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second Ms. S. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Park Congregational Church
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Park Congregational Church requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified architect and team to prepare a condition assessment of the Park Congregational Church, located at 283 Broadway, Norwich. This is more of a traditional condition assessment request. There are some known issues with the building, but they would like someone to come in and do a full assessment and make recommendations for prioritized work.

Ms. Acly asked if the assessment was only for the main building or if the other two buildings were also included. Ms. Dunne responded that it is just the main building. Ms. Acly also asked how SHPO guides applicant regarding scope items such as using a lift vs. a drone for evaluation. Ms. Dunne replied that feedback from the Council is always helpful, but when SHPO funds a project, the preference is for a hands-on investigation. Ms. Acly stated that with a masonry building, it might make sense to begin with a drone and to see if scaffolding/lift is necessary.

Mr. Butkus commented that sometimes Applicants come to HPC with very specific building issues, one of the other applicants today for example, has serious masonry issues, but this appears to be a more holistic view that will allow the Applicant to focus in on any items that are turned up during the assessment.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Totoket Historical Society, Condition Assessment, 3 Old Post Road, Northford.

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Totoket Historical Society
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Totoket Historical Society requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified architect and team to prepare a condition assessment of the Little Red School House (Fourth District School), located at 3 Old Post Road, Northford. Ms. Fink did a site visit to this building as they originally planned to come in for an HRF grant, but the building has been vacant and SHPO recommended that they do a condition assessment first to identify key issues and priorities before moving forward. In addition, plans and specifications might be required for some of the work. This is a fairly simple structure and Ms. Dunne does not anticipate the need for investigating load capacities or anything like as there is no change in use planned.

Dr. Glaser requested that a bit of contextual information be added to the assessment to clarify why these resources, one room schoolhouses, are significant. Ms. Dunne agreed.

Ms. S. Nelson commented that this may be, based on the simplicity of the building, an example of where an applicant could get more than just a condition assessment for the grant amount. The goal is always to get the applicant as far down the road as possible. Perhaps plans and specifications or even bid documents could be produced as well. Mr. Butkus agreed that the budget was generous for this building and seconded Ms. S. Nelson's comment.

Ms. Burgess also agreed, and if the project comes back for HRF funding, she would like to see more of a focus on future maintenance.

Ms. Acly commented that since the Applicant is focusing on restoring the building to a specific period, it might make sense to use any additional funds to conduct a paint analysis or research on original windows.

4. Historic Restoration Fund, Governor Samuel Huntington Trust, Inc., In-kind wood shingle roof replacement, 36 Huntington Road, Scotland, CT.

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Governor Samuel Huntington Trust, Inc.
Amount: \$25,820.48

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Samuel Huntington Trust, Inc. requested funding in the amount of \$25,820.48 for an in-kind wood shingle roof replacement. This application is only for the main house as that is all their budget will allow. They may be applying for 1772 Foundation grant fund for the building's ell and may apply for additional HRF funds as well.

Ms. Adusei commented that it appears the contractor is willing to guarantee their price for 30 days. What will happen if there are price fluctuations after that? Ms. Fink responded that if there were, the application would have to be brought back before Council. However, Ms. Fink believes that the applicant has a good relationship with the contractor and the requested amount should be sufficient.

Mr. Butkus commented on the request, included in the application, for copies of the Applicants' insurance policies. Mr. Butkus stated that a copy of an insurance certificate should be sufficient.

Ms. Acly asked for clarification that this was a simple roof replacement that did not warrant plans and specifications. Ms. Fink replied that it was. The proposal also indicated that lead flashing would be used, and Ms. Acly recommended that Ms. Fink confirm it is okay to use lead on the site. Ms. Acly also recommended getting additional information about the deck boards.

Ms. S. Nelson stated that the two different proposals received by the Applicant included different flashing and shingle materials, different shingle exposure, etc. This makes it hard to judge which proposal most closely resembles what is on the building and is more appropriate. Ms. Fink replied that she will work with the Applicant to find out the answers to all those questions and to put that information in the bid documents. She was confident that the proper species, exposure, and materials can be documented and provided to the contractors.

Ms. Adusei quickly noted that the two proposals were also bidding on different square footage amounts and to be aware of that.

Ms. Carnell asked about the language in the application that says, "architectural plans and specifications are required unless it is an asphalt shingle replacement with no changes to the decking" and neither of those is true here. A lot of these questions may have been avoided if specifications had been submitted. Ms. Fink replied that SHPO staff felt this was a straight-forward roof replacement, and in this instance, the submission of plans and specs was not warranted.

5. Historic Restoration Fund, Young Men's Institute Library DBA The Institute Library or New Haven Young Men's Institute, Abatement of asbestos-containing plaster ceiling in basement, 847 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT.

On a motion by Ms. Acly, second by Mr. Butkus, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Young Men's Institute Library DBA The Institute Library or New Haven Young Men's Institute

Amount: \$39,063

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Young Men's Institute Library requested funding in the amount of \$39,063 for the abatement of the asbestos-containing plaster ceiling in the basement. This project is urgent as lab testing confirmed that the basement, where the building's mechanical and electrical systems are located, cannot be accessed without proper respiratory protection and training. The Applicant is also negotiating a loan to cover the full amount and they also recently received bond funding. Ms. Fink stated that Ms. Boyer was on the call and could speak to these.

Mr. Butkus asked if all the heating pipes would be reinsulated after the abatement? Ms. Boyer replied that type of work would probably be done later with the bond funding. Right now, they are just trying to make the basement safe to access. There is a lot more work to be done in the basement once it is accessible.

Ms. Adusei asked why one of the proposals include a generator rental and one did not. Ms. Boyer did not know the answer to that question.

Ms. Burgess asked a question about the budget. It sounds like the bond funds are going to be used to cover the costs or is the Applicant still going for a line of credit? Ms. Boyer replied that they are going for a line of credit to match the HRF grant for the asbestos work. Ms. Burgess clarified that this is a smaller urgent project that is a precursor to a larger capital project. Ms. Boyer stated that was correct.

Mr. Butkus stated that it would be beneficial for some of these smaller non-profit applicants if there was a mechanism to reimburse them earlier in the process or 1/2 way through the process to avoid situations like this where they must borrow money to cover the costs. Ms. Fink responded that it would require a statutory change and language related to the easement program might also have to be changed, so it may take some time to investigate that.

6. Historic Restoration Fund, The Vernon Historical Society, Restoration of 21 wooden windows and addition of 21 new storm windows. 734 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT.

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Vernon Historical Society

Amount: \$40,825

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Vernon Historical Society requested funding in the amount of \$40,825 for the restoration of 21 wooden windows and the addition of 21 new storm windows. Ms. Fink and Mike Forino made a site visit to

confirm the project need and scope of work. Architect Bob Hurd has been involved and will assist in managing the project. There were several representatives from the Vernon Historical Society on the call for questions.

Ms. Adusei asked if there was additional detail available on the proposals that were received since there were differences amongst them. Ms. Fink responded that the documents in the application are just informal quotes, and they will have to wait until the formal bids come in.

Mr. Butkus asked if the Applicant was planning to put in temporary protection when the windows are removed or are they planning to use the existing storm windows. Ms. Jean Luddy replied that Mr. Hurd had to leave but she believes he has a plan in place to secure the building while the work is going on.

Ms. Carnell asked about the color choice for the windows, which is indicate as green in the application. Was a paint analysis done to determine if that was the original color or how was that color selected? Ms. Luddy responded that Mr. Hurd proposed green as it fit with the building, and she also thought he had done a paint analysis. Ms. Fink confirmed that a paint analysis was done.

7. Survey and Planning Grant, St. Mary's Church, Condition Assessment, 70 Central Avenue, Norwich

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended the application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: St. Mary's Church

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. St. Mary's Church requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified architect and team to prepare a condition assessment of the building. Mr. Mike Forino has been working with the Applicant because they are experiencing extreme issues related to water infiltration. They are currently in safety/stabilization mode, which means the city has required that they remove certain features, which, thankfully, they did do in consultation with a qualified architect. So, this grant will support an investigation into what is causing the water issues. This might require scaffolding as it is a fairly tall and complex building. Mike Forino was on the call to address any questions.

Ms. Acly commented that it looks like the cast stone is self-destructing. She stated that with early concrete/cast stone like this there were a few methods of construction including a wet-tamp method and a dry-tamp method. The dry-tamp method does tend to fail. Ms. Acly recommended the addition of a qualified materials conservator to the project team. This may be even more useful than testing in this instance.

Dr. Glaser commented that the application talks a lot about the current community the church is serving, but it would be useful to know a bit more about the original community and whether it was always immigrant based.

Ms. Carnell asked if the assessment would be focusing only on the damaged cast stone or other parts of the building envelope as well, such as the roof, windows, stone masonry, etc.? Ms. Dunne responded that it would certainly be more focused than a standard comprehensive assessment, but that it would not be limited to just the cast stone. SHPO always wants to make sure that we are not just treating the symptoms, but also investigating the cause of the damage and how it may be affecting other building elements as well.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates – Todd Levine

Mr. Levine had nothing to report.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney congratulated Dr. Horowitz on his appointments as both the new state historian and as a member of Council. Mr. Kinney welcomed Dr. Horowitz and stated that everyone is looking forward to working with him.

Mr. Kinney thanked Vice-Chairwoman Nelson for stepping in and chairing the meeting in Chairman Elmore's absence.

Finally, Mr. Kinney reported on an upcoming Veteran's Day event. The Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS), in conjunction with the Friends and Neighbors (FANs) of Israel Putnam Memorial State Park and the Connecticut Parks and Forest Division, will hold a community event on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 from 12:30-1:30 at the park in Redding, CT. The event will honor all who participated in the Redding Winter Encampment of 1778-1779, with a special focus on African American and Native American soldiers as well as the women who travelled along with their husbands.

The organizers will share new research related to the period of the encampment including better access to historical documents that bring to life the "Forgotten Voices" of these African American and Native American soldiers, and women. Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi, from Connecticut Department of

Veterans Affairs, will make remarks.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro reported that the museum season has officially closed. Staff is very excited about the visitation numbers and sales, which match the figures from 2021 or may even be slightly higher. During the off season, museum staff will meet once a month, in a retreat-type staff meeting, to engage in planning and professional development. Right now, 3 staff members are attending the NEMA conference in Springfield, MA. Staff is also figuring out which topics will be discussed each month, some of which include updating National Register nominations for the museums, project management, new practices in museum education, and a deep dive into cultural sensitivity and implicit bias.

The Prudence Crandall Museum is doing a deep dive into planning for the 23-24 season. The museum had a quiet opening this season after the large rehabilitation project was completed, but a grand reopening is being planned for next summer. That will be a 1 or 2-day event with a ribbon cutting and possibly a symposium with research on the school and students who attended. Portable exhibit panels have been created that should arrive in February. These will allow for testing with visitors and flexibility if something like an open house is planned. Joanie DiMartino recently gave a specialized tour to a group of FBI agents from New Haven, which went really well. Ms. DiMartino was also recently voted onto the board of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

Old New-Gate Prison's recent Halloween Illumination event, which included carved Jack-O-Lanterns throughout the mine, was a big success and was sold out every weekend it was offered. This event alone raised over \$40,000. The site also recently hosted the East Granby Halloween Family Festival, which drew 800 guests and was free of charge. It is an excellent relationship building event for the museum and local community. Old New-Gate had over 12,000 visitors this year, which is a record since the museum reopened. There is also now heat in the visitor center, which will allow for use of the bathroom all year if needed. The Connecticut Hall of Change also hosted the unveiling of a plaque honoring the 2022 class of inductees at the site on October 19th.

The Henry Whitfield Museum is bringing back two popular winter activities, including regular tours and the Firelight Festival, which is a winter solstice event held in December, that is part of the town's seasonal activities. Michelle Parrish is also beginning to work on the 250th grant the museum received.

Finally, the Eric Sloane Museum had a great season and hosted a lot of new, collaborative events. Last weekend, the museum hosted a Touch-A-Trade event in collaboration with the Connecticut Antique Machinery Festival and some other organizations that do construction. The event took up a lot of real estate across both sites and the Sloane Museum itself hosted seven different presenters demonstrating various historic trades, including SHPO's Marena Wisniewski, who did a paint demonstration, that was very well received. Although visitation to the museum was down slightly from last year, gift shop sales have been wonderful.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

Ms. Montanaro provided a brief overview of Preservation Connecticut, their programs, and their statutory partnership with SHPO. She also reported on several upcoming programs and presentations, including several related to the recently completed Olmsted survey. In addition, Ms. Montanaro reported on two funding opportunities open right now. The first involves small maintenance and repair grants that are partially funded by the 1772 Foundation. They are also accepting applications for Preservation Connecticut's maintenance and repair grants, where some of their statutory funding is set aside for a similar program, but for religious properties.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

Vice-Chairwoman Nelson called for a motion to adjourn, but before the meeting adjourned, she wished to thank SHPO staff for all they do behind the scenes, including coordinating different funding sources for applicants, addressing scope changes, etc. Ms. Nelson also thanked the members of Council for staying nimble and for dedicating and sharing their time and work experience with the applicants.

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. S. Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday December 7, 2022 – Meeting format to be determined*