

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 @ 9:30 am**

ONLINE TEAMS Meeting (see code for meeting in your email or contact [Mary.Dunne@ct.gov](mailto:Mary.Dunne@ct.gov) or  
[Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov) for the code)

**MEETING**

**Council:** Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Chairman  
Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Ms. Kathy Maher, Ms. Christine Nelson, Ms.  
Sara Nelson, Dr. Sarah Sportman, Dr. Walter Woodward, and Ms. Ellen Zoppo-  
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**Staff:** Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston,  
Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Catherine Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine, Ms. Jenny  
Scofield, Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wiesnewski

**Guests:** Mr. Peter Alpert  
Ms. Nanette Armstrong  
Mr. Larry Schaefer  
Ms. Kathleen Bidney-Singewald  
Ms. Emily Rahlwes  
Mr. Michael Dimenstein  
Ms. Margaret Khan  
Ms. Rista Milanca  
Mr. Garry Leonard  
Ms. Mary Falvey  
Ms. Jane Montanaro  
Mr. Larry Shaffer  
Mr. David Taylor  
Mr. Oskar Espina-Ruiz

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Chairman Elmore requested that the order of the agenda be rearranged. Agenda item XIV.a. were moved to the beginning of the meeting so that the new members of the Council could be welcomed. In addition, Old Business items XIII.a. and XIII.b. were moved up and heard immediately prior to agenda item V.a. The Council voted to approve the changes to the agenda.

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining-1) (Roll call vote)

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Chairman Elmore read aloud the Public Comments Procedures.

**III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest**

Chairman Elmore read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest.

1. *Dr. Glaser will recuse herself from Agenda Item V.b. She is a board member of the Congregation Mishkan Israel.*
2. *Ms. Acly will recuse herself from Agenda Item V.g. Ms. Acly's firm completed a report that may be integral to the proposed conditions assessment for the Booth and Dimmock Library.*
3. *Ms. Acly will recuse herself from Agenda Item XIII.a. Ms. Acly's firm has also been working with the New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society.*

#### **IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts**

- a. Minutes for Part 1 of Meeting - March 3, 2021  
On a motion by Ms. Christine Nelson, Second by Ms. Sara Nelson, the March 3, 2021 minutes were approved with corrections.  
(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-3) (Roll call vote)
- b. Transcript as minutes for Part 2 of Meeting – March 3, 2021  
On a motion by Dr. Sportman, Second by Ms. Carnell, the March 3, 2021 minutes were approved.  
(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-5) (Roll call vote)

#### **XIV. New Business**

- a. Welcome to New Historic Preservation Council Members  
New members Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess and Ms. Ellen Zoppo-Sassu were welcomed to the Council and were introduced to their fellow Council members and SHPO staff. The three new members are filling the two open spots previously held by Dr. Fiona Vernal and Dr. Jeff Partridge and the spot held by Karyn Gilvarg.

Chairman Elmore also thanked Ms. Sara Nelson - past Chairwoman, for her time and patience during his induction.

#### **XIII. Old Business**

- a. **Historic Restoration Fund Grant, New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society, Foundation Restoration, Montville (Recall Item V.j. on 1/6/21 agenda – tabled until additional information was obtained)**  
(Ms. Beth Acly was recused at 9:45 a.m.)

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson, the Council voted to recall the motion to the table.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Recused-1, Absent-1) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society

Amount: \$7,500

Ms. Fink presented this application. The New England Hebrew Famers of the Emanuel Society requested funding in the amount of \$7,500 to stabilize the northwestern half of the foundation that is currently above grade, restore visibility of the southeastern half of the foundation currently at grade and add a stone dust path to discourage plant growth on and in the foundation walls. Staff recommended the application for funding.

This application was originally presented to the Council on January 6, 2021. The Council voted to table the item at that time and requested additional information. Ms. Fink provided additional information that addressed the Council's prior questions and concerns. Ms. Fink provided:

- An updated budget, which eliminates the ineligible documentation portion of the project. The updated budget is on the following page.
- Additional photographs that reflect the area described in the scope of work.
- Further explanation of the project site: The synagogue parcel contains the stone ruins of the synagogue as well as a community house and mikveh, while the abutting parcel holds the remains of the creamery foundation and barn. An aerial map of the area has been provided. The project area is highlighted in red text.
- A detailed work plan: The plan includes excavating two trenches around the synagogue's stone ruins and stabilizing the entranceway wall and as much of the two side walls as possible.
- The work plan also includes stone dust paths inside and around the perimeter to deter the growth of invasive vegetation.
- Background of the area and project: The site is a state archaeological preserve. In the summer of 2012, the site's mikveh and community building ruins were the subject of a three-week archaeological excavation field school by the University of Connecticut under the direction of Drs. Nicholas F. Bellantoni and Stuart S. Miller.
- Afterwards the NEHFES was awarded a Survey and Planning grant from our office to assess the foundations and create a work plan for the rehabilitation.

Ms. Fink presented a budget update, photos, maps and a more detailed scope of work, floor plan, and updated the narrative on this application. Ms. Maher thanked Ms. Fink on a job well done.

**b. Nomination to the State Register of Historic Places, Bartholomew-Augur Farmstead, 298 Forest Road, North Branford (Item VI.b. on 9/2/20 agenda – tabled until applicant was ready to present)**

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Sara Nelson, the Council voted to recall the motion to the table.

*(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -1) (Roll call vote)*

*(Ms. Acly returned to the meeting at 10:05 a.m.)*

On a motion by Ms. Sara Nelson, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table the motion, pending receipt of additional information.

*(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -1) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Wiesnewski presented this application, which was originally presented to Council in March of 2020 and was tabled for additional revisions. Subsequently COVID limited the ability of the author to do research. The addition information presented now includes details about previous owners, contextual information about why it is one of the last homesteads in relation the New Haven Water Company's creation of a reservoir in town, and more information on the character defining features of the farmhouse. Mr. David Tylor, the author of the nomination, was on the call.

Ms. Maher stated that the architectural description is good, but the agricultural context is still light. There could also be more information about the women who lived on the property.

Chairman Elmore agreed that there was not much mentioned about the farmstead or the landscape and he would like that added to the nomination. Chairman Elmore also asked if the black line on the 1904 map could be extended around the property boundary. Ms. Wiesnewski agreed to make the change.

Dr. Glaser agreed with Chairman Elmore.

Ms. Carnell stated that she agreed with her fellow Council members and was curious whether or not they wanted to see these changes before voting to approve or if Council wanted to do an approval contingent upon completion of the recommended revisions. Ms. Carnell stated how much work Ms. Wisniewski has done to improve the nomination.

Ms. Maher said that she is not comfortable with a contingent approval and would like to see it again.

The nomination was tabled and Council requested that Ms. Wisniewski provide a progress report at the June meeting.

## V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

### a. Survey and Planning Grant, Middle Haddam Association, Feasibility Study for 12 School House Lane, Middle Haddam

*This item was brought to the table on a motion from Ms. Christine Nelson and a Second by Ms. Maher.*

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.*

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Middle Haddam Association

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Middle Haddam Association requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and associated team to prepare an adaptive reuse feasibility study for the Middle Haddam School at 12 Schoolhouse Lane. The applicant was awarded a grant to complete a condition's assessment last summer. SHPO also holds an easement on the property due to a recently completed Historic Restoration Fund grant. Before the Applicant moves forward with other projects, Ms. Dunne recommended that they complete a feasibility study to help guide them. Staff recommends the application for funding.

Ms. Maher expressed that this is an excellent example of the correct way to invest in a property in a manner that will benefit the local community.

Ms. Burgess added she found the methodology, scope of work, and budget very strong in the application and agreed with Ms. Maher about this project benefitting the community.

Ms. Sara Nelson asked how and when hazardous materials were being identified which were mentioned previously in the condition assessment report, because they can eat up a lot of a project budget. Ms. Dunne replied that the applicant has the opportunity for additional funding for the hazardous material and should have mentioned that. This will be confirmed with the applicant.

Chairman Elmore added that he was happy to see the schoolhouse saved as he had lost one in his town three months ago. He asked if the structural integrity on page 8 refers to structural integrity or the existing layout. Ms. Dunne replied that the structural

deficiencies should have already been identified. This is to define the space and how it is going to serve the community. A second question Chairman Elmore asked was given the size of the building does the applicant anticipate adding on to make it financially viable.

Ms. Dunne replied thus far that has not been part of the discussion and may come up during the feasibility study. SHPO will work with the applicant.

**b. Survey and Planning Grant, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Condition Assessment for 785 Ridge Road, Hamden  
(Dr. Glaser was recused at 10:26 a.m.)**

This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson.

On a motion by Christine Nelson, Second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Congregation Mishkan Israel  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Congregation Mishkan Israel requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the Congregation Mishkan Israel synagogue building at 785 Ridge Road, Hamden. Staff recommended the application for funding. At the March 26, 2021 State Review Board meeting, the applicant was referred to the Parks Service for listing on the National Register. They are listed on the State register and are eligible for funding. They do not have any drawings but they have identified needs and need to look at the building as a whole. Mr. Larry Schaffer and Mr. Michael Dimenstein are on the call for any questions or concerns.

Ms. Maher added that it will be critical to have a stained-glass conservator on the project team. Ms. Dunne replied she will request this, and it could be added to the RFP.

Ms. Acly asked how the phased cost estimate in the appendix was developed and that it was helpful. Ms. Dunne replied that this was done by the Applicant, but they are realizing that they need a comprehensive assessment.

Mr. Michael Dimenstein added that this has been an internal assessment and that they are looking for more expertise. Mr. Peter Alpert, head of the Building Committee, added that the assessment was done within the congregation and was not a professional assessment.

Ms. Acly asked when the last time the roof redone. Mr. replied he did not know but that sections of the roof had recently been redone, but not the entire roof.

*(Dr. Glaser was returned to the meeting at 10:36 a.m.)*

**c. Survey and Planning Grant, Canaan Institutional Baptist Church, Condition Assessment for 31 Concord Street, Norwalk**

This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Sara Nelson, Second by Ms. Maher.

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table this item until the May 5, 2021 meeting.*

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Canaan Institutional Baptist Church

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Canaan Institutional Baptist Church requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for Canaan Institutional Baptist Church at 21 Concord Street in Norwalk. Staff recommended the application for funding. There is an easement on the building, as a result of a Historic Restoration Fund grant completed last year for stained-glass window repairs. A conditions' assessment is recommended to assess the overall capital needs of the whole building. There are no historical drawings on record. The owners of the building are eager to move forward with this report so they can conduct fund raisers to complete other projects for the building. Ms. Susan Switzer prepared the application but was not on the call.

Ms. S. Nelson was concerned with the vinyl siding, which can obscure potential issues. The study should include having some of the vinyl siding removed to inspect underneath. Ms. Acly was asked for her thoughts on the vinyl siding.

Ms. Acly added that it is important to have some limited exposure to materials underneath the vinyl siding, which can trap moisture and cause issues. Ms. Dunne replied she will make the applicant aware of this and to add to the RFP.

Ms. Maher added the application need more information, such as a priority list and pictures of specific areas of concern. Ms. Dunne replied that she and Ms. Lozapone did do a site visit 2 years ago at the start of the window repair project, but that they

did not do all the windows and additional issues may have arisen. A condition assessment is in need to identify other areas of concern.

Ms. Acly stated that it was her understanding the assessment was proposed as a logical next step. Ms. Dunne replied that it was and that we do not want to address symptoms, we want to get to the underlying issues. They did a wonderful job on their HRF grant, but want to move forward in a more organized and comprehensive way.

Chairman Elmore asked if the Council was comfortable with moving forward or is more information needed. Ms. Sara Nelson expressed that there does appear to be a need to focus the application a little bit since there are so many potential items to address. There are also no drawings. Another conversation might help the owner focus. She would recommend tabling for more info.

Ms. Acly agreed with Ms. Sara Nelson for more information and a potential drone survey. The sheet metal on the roof/domes may require more expensive types of investigation.

**d. Survey and Planning Grant, Aldrich Free Public Library, Condition Assessment for 299 Main Street, Moosup (Plainfield)**

*This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson.*

*On a motion by Ms. Christine Nelson, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.*  
(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Aldrich Free Public Library  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Aldrich Free Public Library requested funds in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the library building at 299 Main Street, Moosup (Plainfield). Staff recommended the application for funding. The Library, in conjunction with the Town was planning several projects that were not preservation friendly, including wholesale window replacement. They decided to take a step back and get some outside help to ensure the work meets the Standards.

Ms. Maher asked if \$2,000 to a City employee an allowable expense. Ms. Dunne replied that it is. It represents 10% of the grant and everything must be spent and



documented. Ms. Maher also asked if there were any restrictions or easements on the property. Ms. Dunne replied no, she did not see anything on the spreadsheet. Ms. Maher also asked if the structure of the building is capable of supporting the weight of books like a modern-day library. Ms. Dunne replied the building was once previously used as a library and this is an important component of the study. An architect and an engineer will be part of the team.

Ms. Acly added that an RFP section dealing with this issue would be helpful.

Ms. Burgess asked a question of the management of the project. Will the Library be working with the Town and the Library Board of Directors who have knowledge of the building? Ms. Dunne replied that the project will be managed by the architect the Town hires. The town will probably fund some of the recommended treatments. The Economic Development Coordinator is the identified Town employee who will be administering the project, create the RFP, and make sure the project is moving along smoothly.

**e. Survey and Planning Grant, City of Torrington, Condition Assessment for Yankee Pedlar Inn, Torrington**

*This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Sara Nelson, Second by Ms. Maher.*

*On a motion by Ms. Christine Nelson, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.*

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: City of Torrington  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne Presented this application. The City of Torrington requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the Yankee Pedlar Inn, at 93 Main Street in Torrington. Staff recommended the application for funding.

Ms. Dunne feels that this small investment will really help this building, which has been the subject of interest for some time. The applicant applied for a historic tax credit in 2015, but the project was not completed. A condition's assessment would get them started with developing the building which is important in town. The interior is sound and has several original components. The hazardous material will be addressed under a separate project. It can take up a huge chunk of a project budget. Ms. Rista Milaka is on the call for any questions or concerns.

Ms. Maher asked if there was a downtown redevelopment plan that this building is a part of? It would be wonderful to see this as a downtown Torrington success story.

Ms. Milaka responded that when the development plan was put together the building was an active Inn and was slated to simply remain in that condition. Since then the property went into bankruptcy and has been vacant for five years. The City would love to have it put back into service.

Ms. Zoppo-Sassu asked if the HPC has seen previous properties that have fallen under the new receivership law. Ms. Dunne replied no, this is the first one under receivership.

Chairman Elmore asked if there were any floor plans and how big is the building? Ms. Dunne was not sure how large the building is. There were no floor plans with the application. Ms. Rista Milaka responded there are very extensive floor plans at their Building Department. The applicant is trying to pick up where the last owner left off.

Chairman Elmore also asked Ms. S. Nelson and Ms. Acly if \$20,000 would be enough to complete the project based on the size of the building. Ms. S. Nelson replied it would help tremendously if the floor plans can be scanned and submitted. Part of the RFP process with a building this size would include codifying the documentation and this would facilitate the condition assessment itself.

Ms. Acly agreed that the floor plans would be a great benefit and would help with the condition assessment moving forward. As far as the funding being sufficient, Ms. Acly asked if the RFP could be layered with the most urgent conditions being included and then less urgent matters to be alternates if funding allows? Ms. Dunne replied that this is done often.

Ms. Carnell added this grant would be very important for the City of Torrington and would be happy to support it.

**f. Survey and Planning Grant, First Congregational Church of Madison, Condition Assessment for 26 Meeting House Lane, Madison**

*This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Zoppo-Sassu, Second by Ms. Carnell.*

*On a motion by Ms.Zoppo-Sassu Second by Ms.Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.*

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused -0) (Roll call vote) (Dr. Glaser did not respond)

Applicant: First Congregational Church of Madison  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The First Congregation Church of Madison requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the First Congregational Church of Madison at 26 Meetinghouse Lane in Madison. Staff recommended the application for funding. The Applicant has been addressing issues with the building as they come up, but the conditions assessment would help them prioritize and get a good jump on properly maintaining the building. The HPC and SHPO did not fund the recent steeple project, but as a result we have a full set of drawings. Mr. Gary Leonard and Ms. Kathleen Bidney-Singewald are on the call for any questions or concerns.

Ms. Acly asked if there are still structural concerns with the steeple or has it been resolved? Ms. Dunne replied we did not fund that project.

Ms. Maher asked what the result of the 2002 steeple stabilization was. Did anyone go look at it for confidence the project was completed properly and is it in the assessment. Ms. Dunne replied that this would be documented as part of the condition of the building.

Mr. Gary Leonard sat on the building committee who repaired the steeple and assured it was completed in the utmost professional manner with no structural issues. They started with a local firm but brought in a Boston firm to complete the project. Petra was the contractor. The remaining concerns on the building have more to do with the stonework, windows, walls, insulation, etc.

**g. Survey and Planning Grant, Booth and Dimmock Memorial Library, Condition Assessment for 1134 Main Street, Coventry**

*(Ms. Acly was recused at 11:17 a.m.)*

*This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Carnell, Second by Ms. Sara Nelson.*

*On a motion by Ms. Carnell, Second Ms. S. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of 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.*

Applicant: Booth and Dimmock Memorial Library, Inc.  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. C. Nelson corrected the address of the property, which is 1134. It was incorrect in the motion.

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Booth and Dimmock Library requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the Booth and Dimmock Memorial Library at 1134 Main Street in Coventry. Staff recommended the application for funding. Ms. Dunne commented that the initial application read as if the Library only wanted to do an assessment on the issues brought up in Ms. Acly's earlier report. SHPO requested that they do a comprehensive condition assessment report. It is a smaller property and much of the square footage is in the basement. There was a large addition put on in the 1980s and drawings were produced during that project. Margaret Khan is on the call to answer any questions.

Ms. Maher added the photos were very nice but not super helpful. The Cirrus Engineering report was more useful. Ms. Maher would also like a bit more through exploration of the history of the owner(s) and property. She would not hold up a Survey and Planning Grant for this, but in the future it would be nice. Ms. Dunne agreed to add more information to the narrative.

Dr. Glaser asked if, in the future, the applicants could include the register criteria.

Ms. Nelson stated that she did not feel it was up to the Applicant for a condition assessment to include the criteria.

Chairman Elmore asked Ms. Dunne if she can have the applicants identify the size of buildings and whether floor plans or drawings are available.

*(Ms. Acly returned to the meeting at 11:30)*

#### **h. Stewardship Relief Grant, Multiple Applicants**

*This item was brought to the table on a motion by Ms. Burgess, Second by Ms. Maher.*

*On a motion by Ms. Christine Nelson, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Stewardship Relief Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicants in the amounts shown below. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicants upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.*

(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining -1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant:	Amount requested
Arts and Crafts Association of Meriden d/b/a Gallery 53	\$1,000.00
Music Mountain, Inc.	\$1,000.00

**TOTAL FUNDING:**

**\$2,000.00**

Ms. Dunne presented this set of two applications. Staff recommended the applications for funding. All applications have been reviewed and include all required attachments. In addition, all invoices and proofs of payment have been reviewed and reconciled with the Certificate of Eligible Actual Costs.

The purpose of the funding is to support the continued safeguarding of historic resources at a time when many organizations are experiencing economic distress because of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are reimbursable grants and only 501(c)3 non-profits are eligible. Eligible reimbursable expenses are those related to the basic utilities and regular maintenance costs associated with the upkeep of a designated historic resource.

Ms. Maher mentioned that if there are monies left over, come the summertime, it would be great to do a second round of these grants. Chairman Elmore asked Ms. Dunne if the applicant would have to apply again for the funding. She replied yes if a second round was approved by the Council.

**VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations**

**VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s**

**VIII. Archaeological Preserves**

**IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates – Todd Levine**

**Clinton**

This item was referred to the AGs office a few months ago. Mr. Levine will be meeting with the property owners next Friday to discuss prudent and feasible alternatives which will hopefully avoid the need for the demolition of the historic buildings. If the property owners do not agree to the terms, the AGs office will file an injunction. The local Planning and Zoning Board will not approve the permits until this application is resolved and the local application will be tabled for 60 days.

Ms. Christine Nelson mentioned that she drives by the property every Friday and that the sign that is supposed to be posted about the pending demolition is not there. Mr. Levine said the sign was damaged but was replaced last week.

The upcoming May 5th HPC meeting agenda will include a CEPA item on a property in Norwalk. A letter, which was shared with Chairman Elmore today, will be going out to the property owner inviting them to the meeting.

**X. Preservation Restrictions**

**XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney**

Mr. Kinney congratulated Chairman Elmore on his appointment and reiterated Chairman Elmore's welcome to the new members of Council. The SHPO is very excited to have them join. Mr. Kinney also thanked outgoing Chair Sara Nelson and outgoing Council member Karyn Gilvarg for their service.

The state commercial tax credit is moving toward a permanent electronic application process and SHPO staff member Julie Carmelich has been working hard transitioning the program. Since January, the program has awarded \$6.9 million in tax credits for four projects in Hartford including the North Armory at the Colt Industrial Complex and two buildings on Allyn Street. This represents total Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures of over \$23.5 million.

Last month Mary Dunne and Mr. Kinney mentioned that SHPO was planning for the federal historic preservation advocacy week, co-sponsored by Preservation Action and NCSHPO. SHPO staff and partners met with the offices of four members of CT's congressional delegation, Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and Representatives Himes and Delauro. The primary request was for continued support of the Historic Preservation Fund, which is a congressional appropriation and the primary source of funding for SHPO's across the country. There are also various other legislative asks that come up each year. Mr. Kinney thanked the SHPO staff who participated and our various partners who were able to join these important calls.

## **XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro**

The Eric Sloane Museum and Old New-Gate Prison are less than a month away from reopening the first weekend in May. This will be staff member Andrew Rowand's first "real" season and he is thrilled. The staff at Henry Whitfield Museum are preparing to open for the first weekend in June. The visitor experience at Whitfield involves closer quarters inside where visitors and staff can come into proximity to one another, so the decision was made to wait an extra month before opening to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.

During the review of applications for seasonal employment at the museums, it was revealed that past seasonal employees would like to come back. At least two vacancies must be filled with new people first, which is always exciting.

The museums will also open this year with a new Point of Sales system (POS). The new system is still being installed and training will occur later this month. The system will have e-commerce capabilities so the museums can bring sales on-line!

Finally, members of the museum team, including Ms. Shapiro, will be traveling to Little Rock, AK, for the American Association for State and Local History national conference. The staff has had a session proposal accepted and they will be presenting on new strategies for developing interpretive plans.

Highlights at the museums are as follows:

At Old New-Gate Prison, permanent interpretive signs have been installed, and they look great. Exhibit text was reviewed by staff at Connecticut Humanities as well as partners from quite a few of the organizations that are involved with the museum. Ms. Shapiro acknowledged Ms. Morgan Bengel, staff administrator there, for her work on this project.

The “white barn” which has been used for storage has been sorted and cleaned out, and staff is working towards opening that facility on the ground floor level for school groups. A few building upgrades for fire code, and to test the water and the plumbing in the restroom out there are needed. Ms. Bengel is also reinstalling the gift shop and a new exhibit in the guard house.

Mr. Andrew Rowand at the Eric Sloane Museum has been cleaning out the “new” Noah Blake Cabin, installing the furniture, and clearing out the debris from the front. The chimney restoration is complete, and this season the Friends of Eric Sloane will install a rock wall between the entrance to the cabin and the parking lot. Andrew has coordinated a virtual program series that begins on Saturday April 10, at 11 am, featuring Deputy Director of the Norman Rockwell Museum who will speak about Norman Rockwell and Eric Sloane. This will be followed on April 17 with artist Eric Forstman, whose family were close friends with Sloane. He will present a talk called, A Sense of Purpose: The Inspiration and Influence of Eric Sloane. The series concludes on April 24 with Clouds on Museum Walls: Eric Sloane’s Painted Cloudscapes, presented by Carolyn Russo, Curator of Art at the National Air and Space Museum.

Restoration work at the Prudence Crandall Museum continues. Prior to the completion of the new entry ramp, a significant archaeological survey must be completed in the area where the ground will be disturbed. That required an RFP process, which can be time consuming. Staff has identified a contractor and are now working with the finance office to steward the process of approving, hiring, and contracting. The hope is that the project will start before the end of April. In the meantime, curator Joan DiMartino has been working on a new plan of interpretation for the museum. She has also been deepening relationships with community and state-wide partners.

A series of long-awaited projects will begin at the Henry Whitfield Museum this spring and through the fall, including repointing of the chimney on the Whitfield House, some electrical upgrades, and cosmetic work. These projects have been identified as important by the fire marshal and many are included in the recommendations of the CAP assessors who were on-site in the spring. Chris Collins has finished a thorough attic to basement cleaning of the Whitfield House and the visitor’s center, and staff are working on the miscellaneous collections on the second floor of the education building. Curator Michelle Parrish has been the project lead pulling together the recommendations of the various reports and has done a stellar job. In addition, the site is preparing for an outdoor “Make Music Day Eve” free concert on Sunday June 20.

## **XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Ms. Mary Falvey – CT Preservation Action**

Ms. Falvey introduced herself to the new Council members. There is nothing new to report at this time, it has been a relatively quiet legislative session for preservation. The Community Investment Act Coalition will be conducting an upcoming Advocacy Week. Ms. Falvey will keep everyone posted on dates and time.

## **XVI. Public Forum**

**XVII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:  
Wednesday May 5, 2021 – Meeting format to be determined*