

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 @ 9:30 am**

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

MINUTES

- Council:** Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Tom Elmore, Ms. Karyn Gilvarg, Ms. Kathy Maher, Ms. Christine Nelson, Chairwoman Sara Nelson and Dr. Sarah Sportman
- 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
- Guest:** Ms. Elizabeth Normen, Publisher, CT Explored
Mr. John Guskowski, Essex Town Planner
Mr. Paul O’Sullivan, Grants Manager, Town of East Hartford
Ms. Tammy Reardon, Town of New Milford
Ms. Mary Falvey, Connecticut Preservation Action
Ms. Jane Montanaro, Preservation Connecticut
Ms. Nannette Armstrong, Coggins Family Association

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairwoman Nelson read aloud the Public Comments Procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairwoman Nelson read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. December 2, 2020

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, Second by Ms. Maher, the December 2, 2020 minutes were approved with corrections.

(Y-4, N-0, Abstaining -3) (Roll call vote)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Partners In Preservation Grant, Connecticut Explored, Magazine Features, West Hartford

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Partners In Preservation Grant from 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-6, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Connecticut Explored, Inc.

Amount: \$12,000 (\$20,000 over 2 years)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Connecticut Explored is requesting funding in the amount of \$12,000 to continue publication of its historic preservation magazine and to develop a new initiative, a preservation-themed podcast. Staff recommends this application for funding. SHPO has been one of the sponsors supporting Connecticut Explored for years, generally in a two-year grant to cover articles in the magazine. SHPO would very much like to expand the focus of the funding and further develop some of the curriculum-based work that CE has already completed to assist teachers and school children. SHPO met with the publisher on Monday to discuss these additional projects. The budget represents the first-year expenses of \$7,000, then \$5,000 to be awarded a year from now that will go towards further developing school curriculum materials and relationships with teachers. Ms. Elizabeth Normen was present to answer any questions or concerns. CE will plan to submit a separate application for the additional funding they have traditionally received.

Chairwoman Nelson asked for clarity on the budget worksheet. Ms. Dunne replied that the budget sheet does not reflect the changes that were made after speaking to Ms. Normen. She should have asked for a subsequent budget revision but was dealing with time constraints.

Ms. Maher asked if the smaller amount CE is requesting will affect the program because they have always asked for \$20,000 in the past, and she was concerned it would affect the consistency that has been developed. Ms. Norman explained the breakdown in the difference of the money and that they are asking for the addition of podcasts and historic preservation themed events.

Chairwoman Nelson added she would like to see a budget sheet to make sure the dollar amount is updated to reflect the change. The Council agreed to move forward, considering the applicant's good track record.

b. Survey and Planning Grant, Fairfield Museum and History Center, GPR Survey, Fairfield

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-6, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Fairfield Museum and History Center
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Fairfield Museum and History Center is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of selected sites within three properties which make up the historic center of Fairfield. Staff Archeologist Ms. Cathy Labadia assisted Ms. Dunne in reviewing the application and both were comfortable with the amount of funding requested. Staff recommended this application for funding. The applicant wanted to make sure they were mindful of underground resources in future planning efforts.

Ms. Gilvarg asked if there were any evidence of any unmarked graves of slaves on either property during this project. Ms. Dunne replied that she was not sure yet if any discoveries had been made. Ms. Labadia added GPR will reveal anomalies in the soil, which are then evaluated to determine if the location could potentially contain archaeological deposits. Something like a grave shaft would show up as a clear anomaly.

Mr. Elmore asked if, in the application, there was a map that covered the entire site and the cemetery, and are they going to GPR the entire site or survey selected pieces of the cemetery and property. Ms. Labadia replied, most of the GPR will be done on selected pieces of targeted property where they suspect there are buried features.

Ms. Maher added this is an important project. She also mentioned this area is affected by flooding and asked whether or not the archaeology could be impacted. Ms. Labadia replied, the first step will be finding out what to protect. The GPR will allow us to see the depths of any anomalies that are discovered.

c. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of Essex, National Register Nomination, Essex

On a motion by, Ms. Maher, Second by, Ms. Christine 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.

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

Applicant: Town of Essex
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Essex is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36-CFR qualified architectural historian to prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Essex Village. Staff recommended this application for funding. Ms. Dunne and Ms. Scofield, National Register Coordinator, met with the applicant to make sure the requested amount of funding adequately covered their scope of work. Mr. John Guskowski, Essex Town Planner, was present for any question or concerns.

Ms. Maher asked if everyone was confident that the correct person would be selected to write the nomination. Ms. Dunne replied yes, if the grant is rewarded, they will move forward with the town and make sure the proper qualifications are in the RFP.

Chairwoman Nelson added that the project timeline should be clarified. Ms. Dunne agreed. On page 11 of the application, the boundaries on the north side, with the boat yard, is understood, but on the south side of the peninsula, why did the boundaries not extend down to the cove? Ms. Dunne replied this is the area the town selected. She and Ms. Scofield will work with the Town on revisions that are needed.

Mr. John Guskowski, Essex Town Planner added that the map was based on a prior grant from about 9 years ago and some of the properties on North and South Main Street were left off. The consultant will help clear this up.

d. Stewardship Relief Grant, Multiple Applicants

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Gilvarg, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award Stewardship Relief Grants, 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-6, N-0, Abstaining -1) (Roll call vote)

Applicants:	Amount requested
Bethany Historical Society	\$1,000.00
Connecticut River Museum	\$1,000.00
Fairfield Museum and History Center	\$1,000.00
Historic New England	\$1,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$4,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this set of four 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.

SHPO has awarded grants to all these applicants in the past, except the Bethany Historical Society. It is always good to see new applicants.

Ms. Maher asked how much of the funding is left. Ms. Dunne replied there is a cap of \$200,000 dollars and that approximately \$56,000 has been awarded so far.

The past few months there has been a steady flow of applications. SHPO has been advertising the program.

e. Certified Local Government Grant, Town of East Hartford, Condition Assessment, East Hartford

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Certified Local Government, Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, funded by the Historic Preservation Fund of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All federal and state grant guidelines and 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-6 , N-0, Abstaining -1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of East Hartford

Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of East Hartford is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment of the Makens Bemont House (1761) located in Martin Park, 307 Burnside Avenue, East Hartford. Staff recommended the application for funding. This is a Certified Local Government grant, which are available to any of the 51 CLGs through federal HPF funding. Mr. Paul O’Sullivan from the Town of East Hartford was present.

Ms. Maher mentioned that there were no interior pictures in the application and asked what the report is going to include. Mr. O’Sullivan added that the interior is in pretty good shape but the Town would like the consultant to look at the entire house. They would like to take care of the historic aspects of the property now versus when problems arise. Ms. Dunne mentioned that she will ask for interior photos.

Ms. Carnell asked if there were existing architectural drawings of the building. Mr. O’Sullivan replied not that he was aware of, but the historical society may have some. Ms. Dunne added that she will try to determine that before the RFP goes out because adding drawings to the scope will affect the cost.

f. Certified Local Government Grant, Re-print Publication, Town of Roxbury

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Christine Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table this application without prejudice until the February 3, 2021 Council Meeting.

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

Applicant: Town of Roxbury

Amount: \$6,359.00

Ms. Dunne present this application. The Town of Roxbury is requesting funding in the amount of \$6,359 to reprint a publication, *Roxbury's Past & Present: A Survey of the Evolution of Roxbury Center's Historic District and Walking Tour* and to print a coloring book for students, *Roxbury on the Move: The History of Roxbury's Many Traveling Buildings* to raise public awareness of historic preservation. Staff recommended the application for funding. The bulk of the funding will be going towards the walking tour publication. SHPO funded the initial research and design several years ago. The initial request was to just develop and renew the historic preservation education tool. Ms. Bridget Miller could not be present today, but Ms. Dunne will answer and questions anyone may have.

Ms. Maher asked if there was a plan to update the story? Ms. Dunne replied that the applicant did not submit a plan to do so, but she can bring it to their attention and make it a condition. Ms. Maher also added, it may cost more money for research, but it would be nice to have the publication available electronically as well. Their narrative should be in line with SHPO's and should be a stronger tool for a modern audience.

Ms. Nelson thanked Ms. Maher for bringing up these important points and asked if SHPO could invite Roxbury to apply for concurrent grants to complete this project? Ms. Dunne replied yes, the applicant could apply for a supplemental CLG grant at the same time if they wanted to.

Chairwoman Nelson asked Ms. Dunne to explain the difference in the amount of the grant request in the motion and the grant amount request on page 2 of the application. The amount on page 2 should have been brought to their attention. Chairwoman Nelson added since no one from Roxbury was present, she suggests that the application be tabled until more information is gathered, and corrections are made. Ms. Dunne agreed this was a good idea.

Mr. Elmore mentioned that he would like to make sure the applicant is asking for enough funding for both enhancements and research.

Ms. Maher mentioned that maybe the applicant can partnership with Connecticut Humanities to help with documenting and gathering information.

g. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Exterior Painting, Preservation Connecticut, Hamden

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Gilvarg, 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-6, N-0, Abstaining -1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Preservation Connecticut
Amount:\$20,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. Preservation Connecticut is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 in order to have the exterior of the Eli Whitney Boarding House, their headquarters in Hamden, painted. Staff recommended the application for funding. Ms. Jane Montanaro was present on the call. Painting is now crucial to protect the integrity of the wood. All work on the building will be performed in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Chairwoman Nelson made an observation about moisture pushing out on the north side of the building. Is there any concern regarding humidity contributing to the failure?

Ms. Fink replied that an HVAC system was installed when she worked there. The attic was also insulated to prepare for this project.

Ms. Montanaro added that there were ice dams and issues with the roof and gutters that were just corrected. The ice dams have not returned. Mr. Rick Wies – Architect, also looked at the attic where the heat was having an impact and devised a plan to contain the heat, but it has not been implemented yet. PCT is also looking to fix the gutters first.

Chairwoman Nelson was concerned with the vapor barrier and moisture migration in the building and suggested that Ms. Montanaro have a conversation with her team.

Ms. Montanaro responded they did have blown in cellulose insulation done several years ago. It was a significant change which is being monitored.

h. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Roof Replacement and Gutter Repair – Roger Sherman Town Hall, New Milford

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second Ms. Gilvarg, 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-6, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of New Milford
Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Town of New Milford is requesting funding in the amount of \$100,000 in order to replace the failing asphalt shingle roof on the Roger Sherman Town Hall with a historically documented raised seam metal roof and repair of the existing Yankee gutter system, soffits, and fascia. Staff recommends the application for funding.

Ms. Tammy Reardon, author of the application, was present to answer any questions or concerns. The Town of New Milford would like to replace the 20-year-old asphalt shingle roof with a standing seam metal roof, which was the original material on the building and is shown in many historical photographs. Silver & Petrucelli Associates completed a conditions assessment and construction document to go out to bid late Spring, early Summer of 2021.

Ms. Maher asked if there was a long-term preservation plan. If so, it was not included.

Ms. Fink and Ms. Reardon will work on producing the document from the preservation information. Ms. Maher confirmed with Chairwoman Nelson that she is comfortable moving forward.

i. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Foundation Stabilization, The New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society (NLHFES), Montville

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table this application without prejudice until the February 3, 2021 Council meeting. (Y-6, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: The New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society (NLHFES)
Amount: \$9,000

Ms. Fink presented this application on staff's approval. The New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society (NLHFES) is requesting funding in the amount of \$9,000 to stabilize the remaining fieldstone rubble from the 1892 synagogue foundation. Staff recommended the application for funding.

Ms. Nancy Savin prepared this application and Ms. Fink will convey any questions or concerns to Ms. Savin. She and others from NLHFES have worked closely with SHPO to prepare a National Register nomination and archeological field school. The applicant is seeking \$9,000 for stabilization of the foundation and photo documentation.

Chairwoman Nelson questioned the budget which was submitted in two parts: masonry stabilization and repair, and professional services related to the photo documentation.

Ms. Labadia tried to provide some clarification to the Council, but most members asked that the application be tabled until the next meeting so that the Applicant could provide additional clarification.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Reports

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

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

Stamford

Mr. Levine provided an update on several ongoing Connecticut Environmental Protection Act items. With regard to the ongoing negotiations between SHPO, the Office of the Attorney General, and BLT, at least 2 bays must come down on the Blickensderfer Building. BLT and their team have indicated to the EPA and DEEP that 7 bays should come down. The current discussion with the Attorney General and the City is how many really need to come down. The goal is to take the least amount, perhaps 3 to 4. Structural engineers are developing a plan to be presented to BLT. Discussions pertaining to the relocation of the historic houses and the proposed widening of the roadway are ongoing. SHPO is now waiting to hear from the City.

Bridgewater

Mr. Levine met with Bridgewater last week and things are moving forward with a plan for a nonprofit organization to take over the Grange building.

Manchester

Mr. Levine is still trying to negotiate a successful resolution before having the Applicant come before the Council. The deadline was last Friday but they asked for an extension to this week. The property owner will need to either agree not to demolish, sign a document agreeing to an extension, or come in for the February HPC meeting.

X. Preservation Restrictions

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

Mr. Kinney opened by thanking the SHPO staff for their great work across all of our program areas over the past month.

SHPO is continuing to work on getting documentation ready to send out to potential new members of this Council and the hope is that letters will be going out to the names on our list in the next week or two. Mr. Kinney should have an update on the status of this effort by the next meeting in February.

SHPO is also excited to be restarting its internship program. Ms. Fink and Mr. Kinney had a great conversation with a candidate yesterday and hope to be bringing her on board shortly.

Finally, the SHPO will be taking some time to look at Connecticut's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan and assessing where the State is with regards to accomplishing the goals in the plan, which covers the period from 2018-2023. Related to this effort and one of the key goals in the plan, which is diversifying both the audiences SHPO reaches and the resource types it is identifying and evaluating, SHPO staff is also planning to look at how they can better incorporate equity and diversity into its programs, internal processes, and the work they are doing with all of their partners.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Ms. Liz Shapiro

Restoration of the Prudence Crandall Museum continues, thanks especially to Dr. Sarah Sportman and the Friends of the State Archaeologist, working in tandem with SHPO archaeologist, Ms. Cathy Labadia. As this project continues, there have been lots of unexpected issues – both under the ground and within the building. Ms. Shapiro was able to visit the site yesterday and to meet with Ms. Joan DiMartino and Ms. Erica Ciacella to walk through and view the work. It's amazing to see what is behind the plaster, and how the ceilings are being supported while the most invasive work is being done. The attic flooring is now secured, and the concrete has been poured in the basement, making both spaces feel very different.

Not for the minutes, but because it's exciting, Ms. Shapiro wanted to let us know that the reason she went yesterday was because Troy, the construction manager, found evidence of charred timbers in the northeast corner of the museum. This is the room that Crandall and the students referred to as the keeping room, and it is the room where fire was set to the building in January 1834.

There is a photo of second-story floorboards that were discovered with charring back during the work the state did in 1970, and this finding matches that area. After seeing the space, the group brainstormed quite a bit about the future visitor experience in that room, and of course, this discovery (which we had asked the construction team to be looking for) will change how SHPO manages the work done in that room – we will want to leave that evidence on display.

At Old New-Gate Prison, the heat is on in the white storage barn and Ms. Morgan Bengel has been working her way through an inventory of that building. At the same time, she is working with the state fire marshal to plan for a change of use to the structure from storage to partially public. The project is highly feasible but will take funding to make many of the needed changes. The next step is to evaluate the current plumbing to see what will be needed to reopen the restroom.

In addition, Ms. Bengel is planning for a full reopening of the museum for next June and is working on the collection inventory and cataloging project that must be completed not only for best practices but also for the state's property inventory needs.

Installation of a new fire and security system at the Henry Whitfield Museum started yesterday, so both Ms. Michelle Parrish and Mr. Chris Collins will be on site for the next two weeks. Ms. Parrish has completed a to-do list of tasks that were identified in the recent CAP reports, and they will be prioritizing getting bids to begin that work.

The museum staff continue to work on a revised mission statement and planning for reopening.

Mr. Andrew Rowand at The Eric Sloane Museum has completed the installation of the old chestnut boards donated by the Friends of Eric Sloane at entranceway to the artist's studio and they look beautiful. He has been busy removing some small trees that have fallen as a result of the last few storms, and planning a webinar series to debut this March that will feature speakers who will look at Sloane as an artist, author, collector, etc. The date has not been set for the "grand reopening" but will be by next month.

A new guide to the paintings in the museum collection written by Mr. Jim Mauch, Sloane scholar and past president of the Friends of Eric Sloane, is finally done. Ms. Shapiro has not seen it yet, but it is sitting on her desk in Hartford and she is planning a trip into the city for next week. The book was partially funded through the state's Eric Sloane fund, and will be used in the gallery, will also and be available for purchase.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business – Ms. Maher

Ms. Maher announced that she was just made aware yesterday that the application deadline for Save America's Treasure grants through the National Parks Service was extended from December 22, 2020 to January 26, 2021 with a \$500,000 ceiling.

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

Ms. Jane Montanaro, Preservation Connecticut

Preservation Connecticut has kicked off the new year with their lunchtime speaker series, with over 600 people tuning in thus far to hear about a variety of preservation topics. Looking forward to ideas for topic discussions, Mr. Jonathan Kinney from the SHPO will be presenting soon. During COVID-19, this has been a great engagement tool. There is a new director at Connecticut Landmarks, Mr. Aaron Marcavitch who has a strong background in historic preservation. Ms. Montanaro looks forward to future discussions. Ms. Sara Bronin will be presenting shortly on her initiative, Desegregate Connecticut. Please join PCT for these events every Wednesdays at noon. Tomorrow and Friday they will be convening with their sister companies to engage in team building and professional development. Ms. Montanaro wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Mary Falvey – CT Preservation Action

CT Preservation Action is looking forward to the Governor's proposal for the budget. They are keeping a keen eye on CIA funding to make sure none of it is swept up for other purposes. The CIA Coalition met and is looking to conduct a virtual lobby in April to reach out to their constituents by email to make them aware of the appreciation for CIA funding in their district and what the funding achieves.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second, Ms. Carnell, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday February 3, 2021 – Meeting format to be determined***