

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, July 6, 2022 @ 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. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Mr. Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Chairman Thomas Elmore, Dr. Margaret Faber, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Sarah Sportman

Absent: Ms. Christine Nelson, Vice-Chairwoman and Ms. Sara Nelson

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

Guest:

Ms. Mary Donohue
Ms. Mary Falvey
Ms. Alli Goldfarb
Mr. Walker Holmes
Ms. Nora Howard
Mr. Eric Knapp
Mr. Jordan Lumpkins
Ms. Jane Montanaro
Mr. David Taylor

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairman Elmore read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Chairman Elmore read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest and asked if there were any conflicts of interest. Ms. Marguerite Carnell indicated that she would recuse herself from agenda item V.B.5. as her firm is working on a National Register nomination for the property in question.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

a. May 4, 2022 – Suffield CEPA Meeting – Transcript

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Dr. Glaser, the Council voted to approve the May 4, 2022, meeting transcript with corrections.

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

- b. May 18, 2022 – Special HPC Meeting – Minutes
On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. Burgess, the Council voted to approve the May 18, 2022 meeting minutes with corrections.
(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)
- c. June 1, 2022 – HPC Meeting – Minutes
On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Mr. Butkus, the Council voted to approve the June 1, 2022 meeting minutes.
(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining-3, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

1. Survey and Planning Grant, Ancient Burying Ground Association, Historic Preservation Landscape Plan for Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground including outdoor sculpture assessment, Hartford

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Dr. Faber, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Ancient Burying Ground Association
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Ancient Burying Ground Association requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified historic landscape architect to prepare a historic preservation landscape plan for the Ancient Burying Ground (1640-1900), located at 60 Gold Street, Hartford, and to engage a qualified outdoor sculpture conservator to prepare conservation assessments, treatment recommendations, and cost estimates for 25 table stone-style grave markers. The Association has conducted extensive research on this property and HPC has previously provided funding to the organization. Ms. Dunne stated that they are eager to move forward with the landscaping plans and the conservation of the table stones. Ms. Mary Donohue was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Butkus asked how this product will differ from the report that was completed for the property 12 years ago. Ms. Donohue responded that the primary issue at that time was the site’s drainage, which has subsequently been addressed. There have been several significant changes to the site since that time as well as the

recognition of additional needs. This updated plan will address lighting, plant selection, and the landscaping of the site. The report is a requirement to apply for capital funding through the Historic Restoration Fund, which the Association hopes to apply for upon completion of this effort. A large tree was recently removed from the site and as the roots from the tree subside, it could cause additional shifting of the table stones, which were already identified as unstable in the report that was completed 12 years ago. A civil engineer will be brought on as part of the team to conduct soil samples and develop a plan for installing a solid base upon which the table stones can sit. Mr. Butkus mentioned the possibility of using helical piles under each leg of the table stones to help support them from below and to minimize ground disturbance. Ms. Donohue agrees that that was a good idea and will discuss it with the engineer.

Chairman Elmore asked if each of the table stones had a burial underneath it. Ms. Donohue responded that the stones have been moved around over the past 200-300 years so there is no longer a direct correlation between the stones and burials. Whenever they are doing work, they know to contact the State Archaeologist if human remains are discovered.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, Shiloh Baptist Church, Condition Assessment for 350 Albany Avenue, Hartford

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Mr. Butkus, 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.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Shiloh Baptist Church
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Shiloh Baptist Church requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and/or engineer, or full-service consulting firm to complete a condition assessment for the Shiloh Baptist Church (1911-1914), located at 350 Albany Avenue, Hartford. Staff recommends the application for funding and the Applicant has the matching funds in hand.

Ms. Lynn Ford of Shiloh Baptist Church originally approached Ms. Fink about applying for capital funds for a roof replacement, as the current roof is leaking. SHPO staff and Mr. Mike Forino from Preservation Connecticut conducted a sight visit and confirmed that there are both roof issues and exterior masonry issues on this very large building. SHPO staff recommended that the Applicant take a step back and first have a condition assessment completed for the building to identify any additional issues that may be present and to make recommendations for next steps. Ms. Dunne stated that once the condition

assessment is completed, the Applicant will most likely come back for funding to complete architectural plans and specifications in anticipation of applying for a Historic Restoration Fund grant.

Chairman Elmore asked if emergency funds would be needed while the Applicant waits for this work to be completed, depending on how severe the water infiltration is. Ms. Dunne was not certain of the severity, but SHPO can certainly revisit the possibility of emergency funds, if necessary, which could be done concurrently through HRF.

Ms. Acly agreed that a condition assessment was a logical next step.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Calvary Temple Christian Center, Condition Assessment for 319 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Calvary Temple Christian Center
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Calvary Temple Christian Center requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and/or engineer, or full-service consulting firm to prepare a condition assessment for the Calvary Temple Christian Center (1870), located at 319 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport. Mr. Forino, Preservation Connecticut Circuit Rider conducted a site visit. The Applicant did have specific needs that they were hoping to have assessed, such as ADA compliance. However, there are no urgent needs right now, so Mr. Forino recommended a general condition assessment to evaluate the entire property and prioritize future work.

Mr. Butkus commented that he was looking at Google Street View and noticed that the roof and spire appears to be in bad shape and asked if that has since been addressed. Ms Dunne responded that it has not been addressed, but it is a specific item they can point out in the RFP. There is also aluminum siding on the building, which could be hiding other potential issues. Selective investigation under the siding could also be added to the RFP. The applicant may apply for additional funding if further investigation or plans/specifications are required.

4. Survey and Planning Grant, Aldrich Free Public Library, Architectural Plans and Specifications for Library Restoration, Plainfield (Moosup)

On a motion by Dr. Faber, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Aldrich Free Public Library
Amount: \$10,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Applicant requested funding in the amount of \$10,000 to complete architectural plans and specifications for phase one of the planned restoration of the Aldrich Public Library (1896), located at 299 Main Street, Moosup. The Applicant previously received a Survey and Planning grant for a condition assessment of the building. They did competitively bid that work and began working with Crosskey Architects. The budget for this work came from Crosskey and the grant is being matched by the Applicant. Mr. Jordan Lumpkins from the town was on the call for any questions or concerns. There were no questions from Council.

5. Partners In Preservation Grant, Trust for Public Land, community planning charette for Meadowood, Simsbury

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Partners in Preservation 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-1, Absent-2, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Trust for Public Land
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Carnell was recused at 10:10 a.m.

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Trust for Public Land requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to develop community charrettes for the purpose of designing a public park to educate visitors about the history of

Meadowood, located at 407-415 Firetown Road, Simsbury. Ms. Dunne reminded Council that they recently approved funding for the Town of Simsbury to plan for the stabilization of tobacco sheds associated with southern college students that came to Connecticut back in the 1940s to work the tobacco fields, the most famous of whom was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The stabilization will allow visitors to see the remaining sheds in situ. There will also be an educational/interpretive component on the site and these community charettes are intended to begin that process. The information that results from the charrettes will also be used to inform the development of the park master plan. Ms. Alli Goldfarb and Mr. Walker Holmes from the Trust of Public Lands were on the call for any questions and concerns.

Dr. Glaser stated that she understands this funding will not be used for developing the educational content, but when that time comes it will be important for a historian to be on the team and the focus should be broader than just Dr. King's experience. Ms. Dunne confirmed that is the intent.

Mr. Butkus noted that the site is eligible for listing and wanted to confirm that this was sufficient to qualify the project for funding through the Partners in Preservation grant. Ms. Dunne stated that there is currently a National Register nomination being prepared with funds from an National Park Service African American Civil Rights grant. Therefore, the requirement for listing is met.

Chairman Elmore asked why the Trust for Public Land was the Applicant if the property is owned by the Town of Simsbury. Ms. Dunne and Ms. Labadia responded that the Trust for Public Land, SHPO, and the Town of Simsbury worked out a coordinated plan to seek funding for various elements of the overall plan. Even though the land is now owned by Simsbury there are certain restrictions in place based on prior funding. For example, the Department of Agriculture provided funding, and as a result a certain portion of the land must remain in agricultural use. The Trust for Public Land is responsible for the interpretive piece, based on SHPO funding

Ms. Carnell returned at 10:20 a.m.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

A. Unfinished Action Items

1. Nomination to the State Register of Historic Places, Bartholomew-Augur Farmstead, 298 Forest Road, North Branford

On a motion by Mr. Butkus, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Bartholomew-Augur Farmstead, located at 298 Forest Road, North Branford, to the State Register of Historic Places. Staff recommended listing of this property.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

This nomination was originally brought before Council on March 4, 2020 and was tabled for additional information. The nomination was reviewed by Council again and tabled on September 2, 2020 and April 7, 2021.

Ms. Wisniewski presented this nomination to the Council. COVID had hampered the ability of the preparer to complete the research needed to finalize the nomination. Now that things have opened back up, a more complete nomination has been received. Staff recommended approval of listing the property under Criterion 1 and 2 at the local level. Alternations have been minimal, and the house has maintained its integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association and is also augmented by the presence of outbuildings and farmland. Mr. David Taylor, the author of the nomination, was on the call for any questions or concerns. Mr. Eric Knapp, Town Planner, was also on the call to speak in favor of the nomination.

The pending information needed for the nomination included additional agricultural context and the addition of a female name to the nomination if appropriate. Dr. Glaser added that there is a book by Steven Stoll called “The Lean Earth”, which is about 19th century farming that could be used to augment the context if needed.

B. New Action Items

1. Nomination to the State Register of Historic Places. Charles H. and Francis Miller House, 290 Waterville Road, Avon

On a motion by Mr. Butkus, second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Charles G. and Francis Miller House, located at 290 Waterville Road, Avon, to the State Register of Historic Places. Staff recommended listing of this property.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Wisniewski presented this nomination. The Charles H. and Francis Miller House is eligible under Criterion 2 at the local level as a rare example of the Italianate style in the town of Avon, and which retains features indicative of said style.

There have been some alterations, the most obvious being a single-story infill between the two main blocks, but the house retains its integrity of location, setting, majority of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the vernacular adaptation of the Italianate style and the picturesque aesthetic, which is further emphasized by the contributing outbuildings. The owner has done extensive research for this nomination. Ms. Wisniewski read aloud a letter from Ms. Nora Howard, Avon Town Historian, supporting the nomination and thanking the Council for their hard work and time.

Dr. Glaser commented that she appreciated how much architectural context was included in the nomination. Ms. Wisniewski agreed and stated that she was very pleased with the nomination.

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates – Jonathan Kinney on behalf of Todd Levine

Greenwich – Fourth Ward Historic District

Mr. Kinney reported that the project proponent has withdrawn the demolition permit for the seven properties that were threatened by a proposed development. The month of September is now free of CEPA items.

Suffield – 520 North Main Street

SHPO and the Office of the Attorney General presented two options to the owner of the tobacco shed that was reviewed by Council in May. The first was to keep the tobacco shed in situ and the second was to move it over one lot to share a parcel with the house it was originally associated with. The parcels were subdivided which resulted in the current scenario. Mr. Levine will have more updates soon.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

SHPO Hiring

Mr. Kinney reported that SHPO is very excited to announce that an offer has been made to a candidate for the staff archeologist position. SHPO is waiting for confirmation from HR, but the hope is that the new hire will be able to start late next week.

Norfolk Music Shed

Mr. Kinney reported that after receiving the Council's feedback, the team at the Norfolk Music Shed revised the hyphen section of the new addition (at the west elevation) to include a wood trellis below the first-floor level and board and batten siding at the first floor. The siding will be painted to match the surrounding trim. Between this change and the revisions already proposed and discussed at the HPC meeting, the SHPO did move forward and approve the plan.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Jonathan Kinney on behalf of Liz Shapiro

Prudence Crandall Museum

The Prudence Crandall Museum opened for timed tours on CT Open House Day on June 11th. There has not been a huge marketing campaign around reopening due to limited staffing.

First draft designs for the museum's interpretive signage have been received from the designer, and Staff are currently reviewing them. The plan is to have the signage in place by the late fall, and to begin to test with school groups and special tours.

Meanwhile, the final huge project onsite is accessing and evaluating the contents in the Crandall barn, some of which is suspected to be architectural pieces that related to the house (like shutters) but much of which is old office furniture, etc. Staff will be working to empty the barn out this fall.

New-Gate

The Prison Arts Program held its fundraiser at Old New-Gate on June 24. The event attracted over 200 people and was extremely successful.

New-Gate will host what has become its annual Rock and Mineral Show this coming weekend on Saturday July 9, and is planning for an “updated” Halloween program that will be presented during the month of October with over 300 lit jack-o-lanterns displayed in the mine.

Staff has begun working with GNCB Consulting Engineers. This will be a phased approach to the stabilization of, and improved access to, the four-story cell block and will be funded through a Save America’s Treasure’s grant.

Henry Whitfield

Over 100 people attended the live performance by The Afro-Semitic Experience as part of Make Music Day on June 21.

Museum staff are creating a new interpretive exhibit for the education shed that will place the museum into the context of the Colonial Revival and the US response to immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Staff are also planning a series of events for “Welcome Week”, which runs from September 9-18 and works with organizations and communities to bring together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity. It is presented by Welcoming America.

<https://welcomingamerica.org/initiatives/welcoming-week>

The Museum has received some positive indications regarding the review of the grant application to the National Park Service for the Semiquincentennial grant. Mary Dunne received a call asking if the museum could possibly have a use for more money than we requested...staff was quick to meet and to make suggestions as to how we could spend extra funds, including a full update/revision of the National Register Nomination.

Eric Sloane

The museum presented a full day celebration of the long-delayed 50th Anniversary of the museum (due to construction project delays and COVID) on Saturday July 2. There were presentations by the Friends of Eric Sloane, a fun Sloane Trivia talk with prizes, three crafts demonstrators, and the traditional ringing of the bell on top of the Sloane Museum. The museum also received an honorary citation from the state from Representative Maria Horn.

Staff is working on creating curriculum units for use at the museum this fall, and together with the Friends, has opened up a covered education space under what used to be a “shed” roof at the end of the museum building.

The museums have all received funding for the CT Summer at the Museums program, which offers free admission to children 18 and under with one accompanying adult. These funds will help to underwrite interpretive and programming needs for this year.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

- a. Secretary of the Interior's Standards Discussion
- b. Materials Discussion

Chairman Elmore requested that Mr. Kinney add these items to the agenda to introduce the idea of discussing the SOI Standards as a group (with materials being part of that discussion). Mr. Kinney shared a link to the National Park Service website about the Standards and invited Council members to take a look and familiarize themselves with the material. SHPO staff can put together a follow up training on the Standards at a later date.

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

Ms. Jane Montanaro – Preservation Connecticut

Ms. Montanaro shared one update on the Olmsted survey. Next week, they are participating in a partnership program with the Eli Whitney Museum. The Museum has summer camps for children and are partnering with them to conduct a camp on Olmsted. It's Learning Heroes - Olmsted Park Design and History for children aged 9 to 12. There are 36 children signed up for next week's session. They will be getting some background on Olmsted and the seven S's of his landscape design. The children will be landscape architects for a week and will be designing a park and building a 3D model of it together. They will also be building pond yachts and sailing them. Ms. Montanaro wanted to thank Dr. Glaser for suggesting the connection two years ago, even though they are partners with the Eli Whitney Museum, they probably wouldn't have thought to partner with the camp.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, second Ms. Burgess, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully,
Deborah D. Gaston
Jonathan Kinney

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday August 3, 2022 – Meeting format to be determined*