

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, June 7, 2023 @ 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. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Vice-Chairman Paul Butkus, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz and Ms. Sara Nelson

Absent: Ms. Marguerite Carnell and Dr. Sarah Sportman

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

Guests: Ms. Jenny Dickens
Ms. Jill Gotthelf
Mr. Joe Hickey

Ms. Christine Jewell
Ms. Daryn Reyman-Locke
Mr. David Woods

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Vice-Chairman Butkus read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

II. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Vice-Chairman Butkus read aloud the Code of Conduct and asked if there were any conflicts with staff members or Council.

VB1 - Mr. Elmore – Survey and Planning – Ancient Burial Ground, Hartford - *Recused*

VB2 - Dr. Glaser - Survey and Planning - Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden - *Recused*

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

A. Minutes – May 3, 2023 Meeting

On a motion Ms. Nelson, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to approve the May 2023 meeting minutes with corrections.

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

- B. Transcript – Part II – December 7, 2022 Meeting
On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted recall this item to the table.
(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

The Historic Preservation Council voted to approve the December 7, 2022 meeting transcript.
(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, Geophysical Survey of Human Burials, Ancient Burying Ground, Hartford

Mr. Elmore was recused from this item.

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, 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 applicant below in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the applicant below upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

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

Applicant: Ancient Burying Ground Association
Amount: \$5,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Ancient Burial Ground Association requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 to conduct a Geophysical Survey for Human Burials at the Ancient Burying Ground (1640-1900), 60 Gold Street, Hartford. A landscape study and conservation assessment of the stones were recently completed. This survey was proposed so as not to disturb any currently unknown burials during the restoration work. There is no match required for this grant. Ms. Jewell contacted Mr. Elmore as an approved vendor, and he will help manage this project. Ms. Christine Jewell, Ancient Burial Ground Association, was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Ms. Burgess asked if there would be further need for GPR testing in the future. Ms. Jewell replied that the total size of the grounds is 1.3 acre, so she is hoping the 1-acre amount covered by the grant will be sufficient. The Board is supporting this project and is aware additional funds may need to be added.

Ms. Dunne had conversations with the staff archaeologist Cathy Labadia to help find a qualified consultant to complete this project and to make sure the appropriate guidelines were met.

Ms. Nelson stated that the work was described as a “subsequent phase of work” under question 7 in the application. Ms. Dunne clarified that this is not a subsequent phase of work.

Mr. Elmore returned to the meeting.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Architectural Plans and Specifications for Roof Replacement, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden.

Dr. Glaser was recused from this item.

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 applicant below in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the applicant below upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

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

Applicant: Congregation Mishkan Israel

Amount: \$28,800.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Congregation Mishkan Israel requested funding in the amount of \$28,800 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect to prepare plans and specifications for a roof replacement for the synagogue building, located at 785 Ridge Road, Hamden. A conditions assessment was completed for the roof as a priority with a non-matching Survey and Planning grant for plans and specifications, which will support a future Historic Restoration Fund grant. Ms. Jill Gotthelf, architect for the project, was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Dunne what the cap was for a Survey and Planning grant? Ms. Dunne replied the max is typically \$20,000, but this application is for one of the no-match plans and specifications grants that staff and Council agreed to award with a raised cap of \$40,000.

Mr. Elmore stated that he liked the application, and asked if photos could be embedded into the application narrative in the future? Ms. Dunne replied yes either she or the applicant can add the photos, and she can make sure this is done for future applications.

Ms. Adusei asked about the architectural services and detailed scope of work to be done, was it just the roof or anything else that needed service?

Ms. Dunne replied, the conditions assessment outlined several needs. The damaged roof is causing other problems to the building. She encouraged the applicant to come back for additional grants as their budget would allow.

Ms. Jill Gotthelf, stated that, the roof needs repairs first as it is causing other problems in the building. The project will focus on the roof itself, flashings, drainage, and any roof decking that needs repairs.

Vice-Chairman Butkus cautioned the applicant to be aware of the reimbursement of the retainer. Ms. Dunne will make the applicant aware when they turn in their final financial documents. She will also make Ms. Fink aware.

Dr. Glaser returned to the meeting.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Be Foundation, Inc. Condition Assessment for The Granite Church, Redding

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. Staff recommended this application for funding.

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

Applicant: Be Foundation, Inc.

Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Be Foundation, Inc. requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect to prepare a condition assessment for Granite Church, located at 5 North Main Street, Redding. The applicant has already completed a self-funded condition assessment, which was included in the application. In addition to fixing water infiltration and the roof, the Applicant would like to find a qualified historical architect to further examine conditions of the building and to double check and make recommendations that meet the Secretary of Interior standards as a guide. The applicant can come back for more funding in the future if needed. Mr. Richard Redding of the Be Foundation and Ms. Daryn Reyman-Locke, consultant, were on the call for any questions or concerns.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked if it would be a better idea to conduct a more detailed and focused condition assessment to get the applicant to the point where they can get actual bids on those specific items. Ms. Dunne replied that was a good idea.

Ms. Reyman-Locke mention the original assessment conducted by Hoffman did a fairly good job of identifying issues, but it would be better to have more detailed information going into the plans and specs to address issues such as lead, asbestos, the bell tower, and water infiltration. These issues are to be further addressed in the conditions assessment.

Ms. Acly stated that she worked on three buildings with similar issues, where moisture was trapped behind the granite, even though it can look perfectly fine on the exterior. Adding this to the conditions assessment would be a good idea.

Ms. Nelson suggested some investigative demolition may be necessary as part of the conditions assessment to obtain information. Ms. Acly suggested Hoffman use a lift in the tower and the high areas to inspect the masonry.

Mr. Elmore asked if lightning protection was recommended or suggested in the building code. Ms. Adusei added the NEC code for electrical was changed in 2020-2021. The applicant should check with the town. The applicant may also want to get a consultant engineer and an electrical engineer to access the building and check new compliance codes. Ms. Acly stated that as long-term stewards of the buildings, Council could encourage that these suggestions be incorporated into the bid documents and future projects.

4. Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, City of Stamford, educational brochure, Stamford.

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. Staff recommended this application for funding.

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

Applicant: City of Stamford
Amount: \$6,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The City of Stamford requested funding in the amount of \$6,000 for informational brochures summarizing regulations and incentives for historic preservation projects.

It is important for property owners to be aware of any historic preservation incentives from the state, local and state building code accommodations, etc. Mr. David Woods, Chairman of, Historic Preservation Advisory Commission in Stamford was on the call to answer questions or concerns.

Ms. Nelson added this is excellent for public outreach and education.

Dr. Horowitz asked if funding was for targeted mailings to specific property owners? Ms. Dunne replied yes. Mr. replied the target is a state-wide with tool kits in the works. SHPO has funded initiatives like this in the past, federal programs are encouraged.

Dr. Glaser commented that there used to be a brochure available to the public with the old Culture and Tourism logo. Real estate agents should also have access to this brochure information as well.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked if the brochure will be available in PDF form if the paper brochures ran out? Is the Stamford resource inventory included?

Mr. Woods added yes, a PDF form will be available. The inventory will be separate from the brochure. The historic district in Stamford is undergoing a dynamic change. The South End was to be targeted first, past the railroad, 1-95 and the Sound is being developed. This information was available to brokers, developers, and the community. There is a 7.3 section in the zoning code which allows historic bonuses. Most people who live in this area do not understand what their options are.

Mr. Horowitz mentioned he would like an update on how things turned out and if the brochure can be shared with other municipalities across the state. Mr. Woods replied yes, that is the intent to share across the state. Mr. Elmore gave a word of caution to be careful how on the guidelines and requirements are phrased.

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

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney reported that he is in talks with the Governor's office on getting Mr. Butkus appointed to Chairman and Mr. Elmore appointed as a regular member.

Paperwork for the newest HPC member, Deanna Rhodes, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services in Norwich, has also been sent to the Governor's Office for consideration.

Mr. Kinney reported on his year's legislative session, specifically House Bill 5756. The original intent of this legislation was "To establish a procedure of appeals of determinations made by the State Historic Preservation Officer." The bill came out of the Commerce Committee. Initially, the bill language was incredibly vague and could have applied to all SHPO's programs. One of staff's primary concerns was the potential conflict between the proposed legislation and SHPO's federal responsibilities.

As a result, SHPO staff, Mr. Kinney, Liz Shapiro, and DECD's government affairs staff met with the Chairs of the Commerce Committee as well as constituents and were able to zero in on the specific area of concern, which folks were experiencing some pain points or confusion related to their regulatory obligations pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

In subsequent conversations with the Commerce Chairs, staff talked about a potential working group to discuss the CEPA process comprehensively with applicants, state agencies responsible for compliance and/or oversight of the process. While the appetite for opening all of CEPA wasn't there, SHPO agreed to a more focused conversation on identifying potential improvements in the statutes and/or regulations as they pertain to historic preservation review. Essentially the working group will serve as a conversation about potential ways to improve SHPO's little piece of a much larger law and process.

Another legislative item that will directly affect SHPO, is the allocation of \$50,000 to DECD to develop a Historic Preservation toolkit. This recommendation came out of a working group, chaired by Mr. Kinney, that wrapped up last winter.

Mr. Kinney also discussed the possibility of having a hybrid meeting in August and of moving the meeting date for July to avoid a conflict with the July 4th holiday.

Finally, Mr. Kinney, knowing that several Council members had problems accessing the OneDrive folder, will reshare the folder with everyone in July and recommended that they bookmark the website in their browser.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Good to Great

Ms. Shapiro reported that announcements of the Good to Great grants will be made next week. Ms. Shapiro has a meeting today with the Commissioner who has taken an interest in this program, as has the Governor. Thank you to Mr. Todd Levine, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, and Ms. Melissa Diaz for working diligently to support the program.

Museums General:

All museums are open and operating with seasonal help – There will be 9 people who represent a very varied skill set working as seasonal employees.

Three of our four museums have appeared on CT Magazine' Amazing Hidden-Gem Connecticut Museums: 42 under-the-radar cultural centers just waiting to be discovered.

Ms. Shapiro has been working closely with DECD's new Marketing Director, and acting director of tourism, Mr. Anthony Anthony, to spread information about the sites.

Old New Gate

The first meeting with museum staff, SHPO staff, and the contractors – GNCB – for the stabilization of the four-story cell block at Old-Newgate is taking place on Thursday.

Mr. Shapiro reported that the museum is able to move ahead with a contract approved by the AGs office for a review of the stability and geological conditions in the mine. This has been five years in the making.

Eric Sloane

June 10th will be Touch a Trade Day at the Eric Sloane Museum from 10 p.m. – 4 p.m., with the Antique Tools and Trades in CT group. Attending, 8 trades presenters and 10-15 tool vendors. ATTIC will be holding their meeting on the grounds as well.

Staff will be working a booth at the farmer's market in Kent on Friday afternoons 3:00 p.m. - 6 p.m. Beyond general outreach we will offer a small activity to preview our Saturday special events.

Henry Whitfield

Live music will be presented to celebrate Make Music Day but instead of holding it on June 21st (which is a Wednesday) we'll be hosting the groups on Saturday June 18th, which is Father's Day, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The band is called Sirium Coyote, their website in the chat.

Website: <http://www.siriuscoyote.org/>

A good write-up of what they're about: <http://www.litchfieldfarmersmarket.org/sirius-coyote.html>

Prudence Crandall Museum

Curator Joan DiMartino presented at the CT League of Museums annual meeting on Monday about the 3-D tours that have been developed for the museum. She spoke about tours at both the Crandall Museum and Old New-Gate Prison.

The final tweaks are being made on the exhibit labels and design, and I'm hoping we have them sometime in July.

In July, the museum will be hosting mindfulness in the Peace Garden with wellness educator Robin Thompson, RN, and museum Curator Joanie DiMartino as we gather in the Peace Garden for a six-week summer series of mindfulness sessions inspired by themes of peace, community, strength, and more related to the 1830s events at the Canterbury Female Boarding School.

Bi-weekly Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.:

6/18, 7/2, 7/16, 7/30, 8/13, 8/27

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second Dr. Glaser, this meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Deborah D. Gaston

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday July 12, 2023 – Meeting format to be determined***