

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 @ 9:30 am**

**HYBRID MEETING**

The meeting was held both virtually on Microsoft Teams and in-person at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT.

**MINUTES**

- Council:** Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Vice-Chairman Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Ms. Sara Nelson, Ms. Deanna Rhodes, and Dr. Sarah Sportman
- Absent:** None
- Staff:** Mr. Cory Atkinson, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Cathy Labadia, Ms. Liz Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski
- Guests:** Ms. Terri Wilson, Ms. Nora Howard, Ms. Jane Montanaro, Mr. Garret Daigle, and Ms. Jordan Sorensen

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

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

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

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

Vice-Chairman Butkus recused himself from agenda item V.B.3 - Meriden Historical Society. Councilman Elmore will chair the meeting during the review of this item.

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

**A. Minutes – August 23, 2023 Meeting**

*On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second Ms. Burgess, the Council voted to approve the August 23, 2023 meeting minutes with minor corrections.*

*(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-4, Absent-0 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, East Avon Cemetery Association, Geophysical Survey of Human Burials, East Avon Cemetery, Avon**

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second Ms. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the 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-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0 Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: East Avon Cemetery Association, Inc.  
Amount: \$5,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The East Avon Cemetery Association requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a geophysical survey of human burials. These grants for geophysical surveys are becoming popular with cemetery associations to learn more about human burials or any missing information related to the burials. The SHPO staff archaeologist worked with Ms. Terri Wilson and Ms. Nora Howard first to make sure the project fell under the eligibility guidelines. They were both on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked if the cemetery was already historically designated. Ms. Dunne replied this is a survey project, so a designation is not required for funding eligibility, but that surveys can potentially lead to future designations.

Vice-Chairman Butkus mentioned that the two surveys of this type on the agenda covered different sized areas with the same amount of funding, one for five acres and one for a much smaller area. Could additional land be surveyed if necessary? Ms. Dunne replied, yes, they can if needed. This grant application was limited to one acre. They are asking for this amount until they bid out the project.

#### **2. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of Redding, Geophysical Survey of Human Burials, Lonetown Cemetery (AKA Isaac Hamilton Cemetery), Redding**

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the 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-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0 Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Town of Redding  
Amount: \$5,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Redding requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 for a geophysical survey of human burials. This item is essentially the same as the last application. Ms. Louise Wagner prepared the application for the geophysical survey. She was not on the call and Ms. Dunne was available to answer any questions or concerns the Council had.

**3. Survey and Planning Grant, Meriden Historical Society, HVAC Engineering Study, 41 West Main Street, Meriden**

*Vice Chairman Butkus was recused. Mr. Elmore chaired in his absence.*

On a vote by Ms. Burgess, second Ms. Nelson, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the 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-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0 Recused-1) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Meriden Historical Society  
Amount: \$19,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Meriden Historical Society requested funding in the amount of \$19,000 to conduct an HVAC Engineering Study. This is the first application from the Meriden Historical Society. Ms. Ginger Jewell was not on the call. Ms. Dunne wanted to clarify that the Applicant is in the design phase of the project and have already assessed the building, so they know exactly what they are working with.

Ms. Acly asked what some of the specific building envelope concerns were? Ms. Dunne responded better humidity and climate control to help preserve the collections and a new roof to support the HVAC system. The building is generally in good condition except for the bulging wall, which is being addressed. Ms. Acly cautioned to be mindful about moisture flow in walls. Ms. Dunne replied SHPO has funded similar projects and are reminded about creating new problems especially if the building has never had a HVAC system before. There will also be a qualified architect on the project as well.

Ms. Burgess suggests looking at the NEH and FAIC report where climate action plans are discussed. There is also a report called “Held In Trust” which discusses climate action plans for museums. The report provides a loose framework for consideration, and they are talking about it at the Stowe Center.

Dr. Glaser asked if the National Register nomination can be attached to the application to justify its importance as being part of a district. Ms. Dunne replied she will attach them in the future.

Dr. Horowitz asked what the \$2,000 for administrative support was for. Ms. Dunne replied 10% is allowed for administrative expenses, but they must be actual expenses and receipts are needed at the end of the project. It can go to personnel cost. Dr. Horowitz added that he hopes this is made clear to everyone and this property is a great resource.

*Vice-Chairman Butkus returned to the meeting.*

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

### **A. Unfinished Action Items**

### **B. New Action Items**

1. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places, Blackman/Shelton Farmstead, 112 Barn Hill Road, Monroe

*On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Ms. Adusei, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Blackman/Shelton Farmstead, located at 112 Barn Hill Road, Monroe, to the State Register of Historic Places. Staff recommended this item for approval.*

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

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application. This property is a farmstead, listed at the local level, under Criterion 2 for architecture, specifically for the 19<sup>th</sup> century barns and outbuildings, as described in the Connecticut barns survey context statements from the 1780-1930 era. There have been sympathetic alterations to the house and the property retains its integrity of design, setting, feeling, and association with late 18<sup>th</sup> century saltbox construction in a rural farm setting. The nomination does mention the condition of the 1802 barn. The owner wanted to apply for the homeowner’s tax credit program to make necessary structural repairs to the barn if the application is approved. Ms. Jordan Sorensen received editorial comments from Ms. Carnell.

Ms. Acly asked if there were actual pictures of the blacksmith shop instead of the storage space seen? Ms. Wisniewski replied no, based on her research.

Ms. Carnell asked if this property was also a candidate for the National Register or were the integrity issues why State Register was chosen. Ms. Wisniewski confirmed that was the case. She added that this was an excellent candidate to be added under the barn context. It is important to have this tool to designate properties like this.

Dr. Glaser wanted to know more about the historic context and specific events and how they may have impacted the small farm. Ms. Sorensen added there was an impact on the area due to the weather. Ms. Wisniewski stated that additional contextual information on the historical aspect can be added. Dr. Glaser also asked if there were any enslaved people on the property. Ms. Wisniewski replied she was not sure and would provide any additional information that was located.

Dr. Horowitz mentioned the 1815 Hurricane.

Mr. Elmore asked about information regarding the farmworkers and Native Americans on the site that could be shared publicly? There was no discussion about the family who resided there. Ms. Wisniewski added the property is listed for architecture and the interest is in the barn. She will check with Ms Sorensen to see if any of this information has already been found.

Vice-Chairman Butkus asked if the if the property was available for funding? Ms. Wisniewski replied, yes and it applies to the outbuildings as well.

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

### **1. Farmington Historic District Commission Study Report, 9 Waterville Rd., Farmington**

Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), on a vote by Mr. Elmore, second Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary for 9 Waterville Road, Farmington, Connecticut as presented in the study report transmitted by the Town of Farmington on August 29, 2023. Staff recommended approval of this item.

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

Ms. Dunne presented this report. She addressed newer members of the Council, saying these local historic district or property study reports come to the Historic Preservation Council for comments, not like a state registered nomination where you're voting to list it.

These are allowed under state statute and as the motion indicates, the role of the Council is to recommend the boundary and ordinance or approval of the boundary and ordinance.

The Council is invited and encouraged to make any other comments you have about the report. Mr. Garrett Daigle, from the Planning Department in Farmington, is here to answer any questions or concerns. The results of these reports are that they're attached to a local ordinance and come under the purview of a Historic District Commission, and that Commission only has purview over changes to exterior architectural features that are visible from a public way. There are no interior pictures of the building. If this is going to be a matter of record, there should be better exterior pictures because the building is not visible, and pictures will be crucial in making decisions on certificates of appropriateness. They need to be familiar with what the building looks like in case there's a change that would affect its appearance.

Ms. Carnell asked what style the property was being listed under. Ms. Dunne replied maybe Colonial Revival and will ask for more clarification.

#### **VIII. Archaeological Preserves**

#### **IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates**

#### **X. Preservation Restrictions**

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

Mr. Kinney reported that an offer was extended to a candidate for the SHPO GIS Analyst position, and he is hoping to hear back within the next week or two.

SHPO has begun working with the CT Data Collaborative, a non-profit organization who trains organizations in data management and helps them to take advantage of and better utilize the data they collect. SHPO is in Phase 1 of the data process. The goal is to take the legacy data we already have and the new data we are collecting and to put them to good use as we move into our statewide planning effort.

Mr. Kinney plans to discuss the 2024 HPC meeting schedule at the November Council meeting and will prepare a rough draft preliminary calendar so that Council can discuss any desired changes and to avoid any conflicts with holidays. The schedule can then be finalized and adopted at the December meeting.

Mr. Kinney also discussed the hybrid meeting format with the members of Council. The group decided to make the hybrid format available each month. Mr. Kinney stated that there would be no issue with that and he will plan for hybrid meetings going forward.

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

Ms. Shapiro reported that the museum season will end on October 31<sup>st</sup>, but the end of the year will be quite busy.

## **Old New-Gate**

Ms. Cathy Labadia, Ms. Marena Wisniewski and Mr. Jonathan Kinney joined Ms. Morgan Bengel, Ms. Jodi Polsgove, and Ms. Liz Shapiro for a tour and “envisioning” of Viet’s Tavern to get a sense of the best ways to approach the creation of the RFP for the federal \$750,000 Semi-Quincentennial grant for preliminary rehabilitation work on the building. The team left with a good idea of what is expected to happen by the end of this project, understanding that our vision for full use of the building will have to be phased in due to financial constraints.

Museum staff are currently awaiting the revised drawings for what will be the first phase of stabilization for the four-story cell block. The drawings should be received by the end of this week. There are various reasons for the project delay, but we have pulled in some of our longtime advisors and consultants, including Mr. Jack Glassman, a historical architect who has consulted on projects at New-Gate in the past and is now with the National Park Service. Mr. Glassman has consulted with members of his network and feels confident that the next plans received will address all issues, which include the safety of visitors and staff, and long-term preservation of the structure. There are very few firms who are qualified to perform this very specialized work on historic masonry ruins.

The contract to have the mine inspected for safety, which has been in the works for the past five years, was finally approved. The inspection is slated to take place in the spring.

Light Into the Dungeon is at Old New-Gate for the second year. Over 600 visitors toured the display of 360 hand-carved jack-o-lanterns in the prison mine last weekend. This year’s special event adds lights and sounds, and it’s great!

## **Eric Sloane Museum**

Last week’s rain caused some roof leaking at the museum, which required a quick gutter clearing and a solution to the immediate need of additional flashing. No collections items were affected by the water, but special thanks to Mr. Andrew Rowand who went above and beyond to ensure the museum didn’t suffer additional damage.

The museum is working collaboratively with DEEP on the possible expansion of the visitor railroad experience that is offered by the CT Antique Machinery Association (which abuts the Sloane Museum and is located on property leased from DEEP).

The museum has worked with the owner of the Eric Sloane painting, “Closed for Winter/Old Stone Barn” which will be loaned to the museum for display from November 6, 2023, to December 1, 2024. The donor is looking for a permanent home for the painting, which has been on loan to a museum in Wisconsin for the past several years. It’s a winter scene, and probably one of the most significant Sloane paintings to ever be

on display at the museum. There will be special events on-site in the winter themed around the painting (which is a winter scene). The owner is considering donating the painting to the museum.

Upcoming events include:

- October 7-8: Iron works tours & blacksmith demos
- October 21: Touch-a-Trade

### **The Henry Whitfield Museum**

The new exhibit on archaeology done at the museum site over the past several years is completed. It took a bit of extra time, as it was curated by summer archaeology students from Southern CT State University.

WelcomeFest was hosted at the museum on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day, with a ton of vendors, but the attendance was not what staff had hoped. This is the second year, and in the belief that three times is a charm, the museum will look to partner with another appropriate organization to host this event next year.

The contract was finally approved by the AGs office for the restoration/rehabilitation work that will be funded by Whitfield's Semi-Quincentennial grant of \$500,000. There will be a walk through with SHPO staff on October 6.

### **Prudence Crandall Museum**

The new exhibit has been installed at the museum (minus a few damaged banners) and has been viewed by some visitors, and 105 people who explored the site on Canterbury's Old Home Day on September 30. Staff will not be publicizing the new exhibit yet, since the museum will close at the end of October, but we will do a hard push in the spring.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the November 4<sup>th</sup> press event and symposium was postponed to the Spring of 2024. This timing should work out better, because it will also serve as publicity for the new exhibit.

## **XIII. Old Business**

## **XIV. New Business**

## **XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Jane Montanaro**

Ms. Montanaro reported that the CT Archaeology Fair is on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:50 p.m. at The Henry Whitfield State Museum.

Preservation CT's lunch time preservation chats will be starting up again. Connecticut Main Street Center will be the first guest. They are launching a new initiative called The Main St. Accelerator. Preservation Connecticut will be a partner with them doing training for main streets working on specific challenges and helping



them with technical assistance. Other proposed talks include the Connecticut Greenbook Project and making a historic house more livable.

On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1p.m.-3p.m., PCT will be hosting an in-person talk/tour about preservation at the Dudley Farm.

Finally, Ms. Montanaro extended a thank you to SHPO, specifically Mary Dunne, for helping to update the Local Historic District Commission website. The sites was relaunched earlier this month and it looks great!

## **XVI. Public Forum**

## **XVII. Adjournment**

*On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Dr. Glaser, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.*

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:  
Wednesday, November 1 – Meeting format to be determined***