

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 @ 9:30 am**

MINUTES

This meeting was conducted in two parts, each on a separate online platform. The first part took place remotely via Microsoft Teams. All the agenda items except Item IX.a. were heard during this portion. Attendees of the meeting then switched over to the Zoom platform for Part 2 of the meeting where the 130 Henry Street, 79 Garden Street, 650 Atlantic Avenue project in Stamford (Agenda item IX.a) was heard.

Part 1 – Microsoft Teams

Council: Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Tom Elmore, Dr. Margaret Faber, Ms. Karyn Gilvarg (9:48 a.m.), Dr. Leah Glaser, Ms. Kathy Maher, Ms. Christine Nelson, Chairwoman Sara Nelson, Dr. Sarah Sportman, and Dr. Walter Woodward

Staff: Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Liz Shapiro

Guest: Ms. Jane Montanaro, Preservation Connecticut
Avery Giorgio, Trinity College Student
Ms. Judy Norinsky, Stamford Historic Neighborhood Preservation
Lucien Lafreniere
Mr. Eric Ott

I. Call to Order for Part 1 of meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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 procedures.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

The September 2, 2020 minutes were approved with corrections.

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second, Dr. Faber
(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)*

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Stewardship Relief Grant, Multiple applicants

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

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining –1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant:	Amount requested
Ward-Heitmann House Museum Foundation, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Friends of Valley Farm	\$1,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$2,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this set of two applications. Staff recommends the applications for funding. All applications have been reviewed and include all required attachments. In addition, all invoices and proofs of payment have been reviewed and reconciled with the Certificate of Eligible Actual Costs. The purpose of the funding is to support the continued safeguarding of historic resources at a time when many organizations are experiencing economic distress because of the Covid-19 pandemic. These are reimbursable grants and only 501(c)3 non-profits are eligible. Eligible reimbursable expenses are those related to the basic utilities and regular maintenance costs associated with the upkeep of a designated historic resource.

Ms. Maher asked how much funding was left. Ms. Dunne replied that a cap was set at \$200,000, expecting 200 applications. There is approximately \$160,000 available.

Ms. Maher asked if there was going to be a second round of funding. Ms. Dunne replied that decision was up to the Council on how the funding should be dispersed. Ms. Maher added this issue can be addressed after the first of next year.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

- a. Historic Property Study Report, 50 West District Road, Farmington

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary as presented in the historic property study report for 50 West District Road, Farmington, CT, as presented by the Farmington Historic District Commission and dated August 15, 2020.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining –2) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The study report was received on August 15, 2020 and is technically complete. Staff recommended a positive recommendation from the Historic Preservation Council.

This was a single-property and boundary designation that the Council has the authority under state statute to speak on. If there were any recommendations from the Council, Ms. Dunne ensured that they would be passed on to the applicant and would be made part of the public hearing.

Ms. Maher mentioned that she could not believe this property was not already on the register.

- b. Historic Property Study Report, 93 Coppermine Road, Farmington

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Nelson, Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary as presented in the historic property study report for 93 Coppermine Road, Farmington, CT, as presented by the Farmington Historic District Commission and dated August 15, 2020.

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

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The study report was received on August 15, 2020 and is technically complete. Staff recommended a positive recommendation from the Historic Preservation Council.

This was the second of three properties submitted by the Town of Farmington. Any recommendations from the council, would be passed to the applicant.

- c. Historic Property Study Report, 33 Waterville Road, Farmington

On a motion by Ms. Gilvarg, Second by Ms. Maher, Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary as presented in the historic property study report for 33 Waterville Road, Farmington, CT, as presented by the Farmington Historic District Commission and dated August 15, 2020.

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

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The study report was received on August 15, 2020 and is technically complete. Staff recommended a positive recommendation from the Historic Preservation Council.

Ms. Dunne was pleased Farmington is applying for these designations and recommendations from the Council would be passed on to the applicant.

- d. Historic District Study Report, Expansion of Farmington Historic District

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, Pursuant to CGS §7-147 b (c), the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary as presented in the study report for the expansion of the Farmington Historic District, Farmington, CT as presented by the Farmington Historic District Commission and dated August 15, 2020.

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

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The study report was received on August 15, 2020 and is technically complete. Staff recommends a positive recommendation from the Historic Preservation Council.

The expansion of the current historic district was originally presented as two separate properties. She asked the applicant to resubmit as an expansion rather than two separate properties because they coincide with one another. Any comments, questions or concerns the Council may have will be shared with the applicant.

Ms. Maher mentioned it would be nice if the houses were referred to as the “Man and Lady of the House” rather than just a John Treadwell North House. It would give the property some diverse history.

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

The SHPO staff continued their exemplary work in each of their program areas, Environmental Review, reviewing Tax Credits, managing the National and State Registers, and coordinating our various grant programs. In addition to these program responsibilities, each member of the staff worked on a variety of special projects, attended site visits, routinely provided support and collaborated with their fellow staff members, and provide technical assistance to applicants, government agencies, non-profits, the public, etc. Mr. Kinney took the opportunity to thank SHPO staff for all that they do.

SHPO had an exciting meeting on September 9th with their consultant Dewberry where the full staff got a first look at what the web-based GIS system could potentially look like. Dewberry and SHPO staff will be working out what type of functionality they would like to see in the system and what levels of information will be available to different types of users. Thanks to Jenny Scofield of the SHPO staff for taking the lead and the additional SHPO staff that have been working on this initiative.

Finally, SHPO is also in preliminary discussions with Preservation Connecticut regarding the potential transfer of administration of the historic preservation easement program to them. It is SHPO's hope that this move will result in a strengthened program with more frequent and robust outreach, education for the property owners of these historic sites as well as more frequent site visits and monitoring to ensure conformance with the restrictions.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

The restoration project at the Prudence Crandall Museum has not been without its complications. In the past three weeks, there have been issues resulting from a misplaced summer beam on the architectural drawings, issues with a walkway to the museum which was drawn and placed without archaeological consultation, and additional related issues. Resolving these problems has taken a lot of time and effort by SHPO staff, particularly Ms. Marena Wisniewski, Ms. Cathy Labadia, and Mr. Jonathan Kinney, who is serving as the point person for the project. Ms. Shapiro thanked them for their work above and beyond.

Old New-Gate Prison reopened the second weekend in September, by advance reservation, allowing groups of 10 people per hour, with a half hour guided tour followed by a half hour of time to explore the site. Feedback has been good. The visitor's center and the gift shop remain closed. Staff is happy to have some return to normalcy.

Staff at the Henry Whitfield Museum will have a visit by Ms. Donia Conn and Mr. Eric Gradoia, their CAP assessors this Friday and Saturday.

The CAP, or Conservation Assessment Program, is funded by a grant through the Institute for Museum and Library Services in partnership with the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation and is administered by the American Institute for Conservation. The staff is looking forward to receiving the recommendations from the report as we embark on restoration projects at the museum.

Ms. Maher commented it was great about the CAP.

Dr. Glaser asked if the museums were doing any virtual programming. Ms. Shapiro replied yes. New Gate has been engaging in virtual field trips. Sloane is prepping for virtuals, Henry Whitfield has reached out to area schools. Joanie after finishing cataloging Prudence Crandall, will be working with teachers and should have some results in the second quarter.

XIII. Old Business – Ms. Karyn Gilvarg

Mr. Levine and Ms. Gilvarg attended the William Lansing statute unveiling in New Haven. The William Lansing House is a site on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The City of New Haven, Freedom Trail Committee, SHPO, and the Amistad Committee have been working on this project for the past ten years.

XIV. New Business

a. Grants – Extension of No Match Requirement – Mary Dunne

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table this item until the November 2020 meeting to allow for additional discussion.

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

Ms. Dunne proposed a motion to extend the deadline on waiving the policy of requiring a match for Survey and Planning and Partners In Preservation Grants from December 2, 2020 to March 3, 2021.

Ms. Gilvarg stated that considering our current world events, this is a reasonable request.

Mr. Maher added that would be a wholehearted yes from her.

It was not clear to the Council whether they had originally voted on a motion to waive the match requirement or if SHPO staff had handled it. Ms. Dunne stated that she could look on the records to find the original language and that the motion could be tabled until the November meeting for additional discussion.

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Ms. Jane Montanaro – Preservation CT

Ms. Montanaro thanked Mr. Levine for being a juror at their gallery opening of the Historic Barns and Photography show at the Art League of New Britain. Over 50 people attended a social distancing event with an outdoor reception. Small groups were able to tour the gallery and view the restorations made possible through SHPO grants. The head of the Art League Board was in attendance and thanked SHPO for its contribution to a successful project. There were over 100 submissions of pictures of barns from all over the state. Over \$7,000 was raised for Preservation Connecticut programming. The show will be in New Britain until October 18th, then will travel on display throughout the state.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment of Part 1

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Ms. Carnell, the Council votes to adjourn Part 1 of this meeting.

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

Part 1 of the meeting was adjourned at 10:16am.