

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, September 1, 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. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Mr. Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Chairman Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Ms. Sara Nelson, and Ms. Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
- Absent:** Dr. Margaret Faber, Ms. Christine Nelson, Dr. Sarah Sportman, and Dr. Walter Woodward
- Staff:** Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Mr. Todd Levine, Ms. Liz Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wiesnewski
- Guests:** Mr. Jonathan Bodwell
Mr. Ben Grinnell
Mr. Greg Reilly
Ms. Liba Fuhman
Ms. Mary Falvey
GNCB Consulting Engineers – multiple staff members
Ms. Carol DeLutrie-Heuschkel
Ms. Kathy Maher
Ms. Jane Montanaro
Ms. Laura Natusch

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

a. Welcome new Council member – Paul Butkus

Chairman Elmore introduced new Council member Mr. Paul Butkus. Mr. Butkus introduced himself to the Council and staff. The Council and staff introduced themselves to him as well.

b. Thank you to outgoing Council member – Kathy Maher

Chairman Elmore thanked Ms. Maher for her tenure with the Council. Staff and Council bid Ms. Maher a fond farewell.

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Chairman Elmore read aloud the Public Comments 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.

Regarding agenda item V.A.1, Ms. Sara Nelson clarified for the record that her husband was a partner with GNCB Engineers. He is now retired and there is no longer any financial connection. Chairman Elmore said that is fine as there is no existing financial interest.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

a. Minutes – August 4, 2021 Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, Second by Ms. S. Nelson, the Council voted to approve the August 4, 2021 minutes with corrections.

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining-3, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

A. Unfinished Action Items

1. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, First Congregational Church of Washington, Repair and Replacement of Support Structure for Bells and Chimes in Belfry, Washington (Item V.B.3 on 7/7/21 Agenda and Item V.A.2 on 8/4/21 Agenda)

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, Second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recall this item back to the table for discussion.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: First Congregational Church in Washington, CT.

Amount: \$28,272

Ms. Fink gave a brief recap of this application and an overview of the additional information that had been gathered since the previous Council meetings. Ms. Fink met with Ms. Amy Jagaczewski of GNCB Engineers and Mr. Ben Grinnell to address questions the Council had about the application. Both were on the call. The main takeaway was that there are two fixed bells and a third that will be supported in place using existing belfry roof steel.

The project budget initially seemed low when the restoration of the bell was thought to be included. However, the project solely addresses the deficiencies in the bell dunnage located in the tower.

Work includes selective demolition, temporary protection and support of the existing bell and components, local roofing repairs, and reconstruction of the bell dunnage in-kind. Mr. Grinnell will gladly answer any questions the Council may have.

Chairman Elmore asked Ms. Acly to lead the conversation since her subcommittee initially reviewed this application. Ms. Acly reviewed the material and felt that all the Council's concerns were satisfactorily addressed. Ms. Acly is comfortable with the project moving forward. Chairman Elmore agreed and asked if there were any additional questions from Council members.

On a roll call vote to approve the motion:
(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

2. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Thomaston Opera House, Replacement of Condenser Units, Thomaston (Item V.B.8 on 7/7/21 Agenda, and Item V.A.3 on 8/4/21 Agenda)

Applicant: Thomaston Opera House, Thomaston
Amount: \$100,000

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, Second by Ms. Carnell, to recall this agenda item to the table and to re-table it again until the October 6, 2021 meeting for additional information:

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

3. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Mansfield Historical Society, Installation of Drainage System, Mansfield (Item V.B.10 on 7/7/21 Agenda and Item V.A.4 on 8/4/21 Agenda)

Applicant: Mansfield Historical Society
Amount: \$54,758

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, Second Ms. Carnell, to recall this agenda item to the table and to re-table it again until the November 3, 2021 meeting for additional information:

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

B. New Action Items

1. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, North Branford Congregational Church, Urgent replacement of boiler, North Branford

On a motion by Mr. Butkus, Second by Ms. S. Nelson, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: North Branford Congregational Church

Amount: \$16,250

Ms. Fink presented this application. North Branford Congregational Church requested funding in the amount of \$16,250 to replace church building's boiler. Staff recommended the application for funding. This is an urgent project that is necessary to provide heat to the building. The applicant will likely return for a Survey and Planning grant for a long-term preservation plan or conditions assessment in the near future. Mr. Jonathan Bodwell, from the church, was on the call to answer any questions about the project. The boiler will be replaced in the exact same place using the existing circulators and controls.

Chairman Elmore asked Ms. Fink to confirm that the Applicant was planning to come back in for a Survey and Planning grant in the future. Ms. Fink replied that they would be coming back for a Survey and Planning grant, but this urgent work needed to be done first prior to the arrival of cold weather.

Ms. S. Nelson stated that she located a four-page summary in the Dropbox, but did not see the entire application or budget. Ms. Nelson asked if the grant request was based on the base bid, alternate 1, alternate 2, or all three? Ms. Fink replied she did post the application in Dropbox.

The applicant is requesting \$16,250 and the total budget is \$32,500. Chairman Elmore stated that the total project budget with the two add-ons is \$31,330. The combined grant, with the match, of \$32,500 covers the match but does not leave much room for the unknown contingencies. Ms. S. Nelson thanked Chairman Elmore for the clarification.

Ms. Acly stated that the application indicated there were no structural issues expected due to the boiler being replaced in the same location. Ms. Acly asked if the furnace was on grade in the basement or on an upper level? Mr. Bodwell replied that it is on the basement floor. They are going to remove the existing furnace and replace it with a boiler of the same brand. No structural work is needed.

Chairman Elmore had two questions going back to the group discussions held in July about dividing the HRF grants into smaller/urgent grants and larger grants. This would be a good example of the former. Also, page 5 of the application asks what type of professional consultant is involved with this project. Mr. Bodwell is a Civil Engineer, which is fine for a boiler replacement. As revisions to the program move forward, Chairman Elmore recommended adding a checkbox for "Other" categories of consultants.

2. Institutional Support for Capacity Building Grant, New London Landmarks, New London

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, Second Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award an Institutional Support for Capacity Building Grant to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown below. 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-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: New London Landmarks (NLL)

Amount: \$100,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application and explained the Institutional Support for Capacity Building grants for the new Council members. These grants used to be called “Basic Operational Support” and they do cover operational expenses, but there is an expectation that the organization will also use the funds to improve or augment some aspect of their work such as staff or board development, fiscal health, community outreach, etc.

The nonprofit preservation organizations that are awarded these grants are considered SHPO’s local partners and eyes and ears in the community. New London Landmarks requested funding in the amount of \$100,000 over a 2-year period to build the organization’s capacity in several areas and to support their mission. Staff recommended the application for funding. Ms. Laura Natusch, Executive Director, was on the call for any questions.

Ms. Acly asked if there were a set of benchmarks that the Applicant needs to achieve during the 2-year grant that Council members should be evaluating against or is Council simply evaluating whether this is a positive for the community.

Ms. Dunne replied a little of both. The applicant sets their own goals and reports back on a quarterly basis. SHPO has also started doing virtual quarterly check-ins with local partners to keep the lines of communication open and to address any concerns or questions the local organizations have.

Ms. Shapiro mentioned that SHPO’s institutional partners are all different, so they are allowed to set goals that are appropriately fitted to their organizations. They are also measured not against other organizations but against themselves.

Ms. Acly asked how COVID affected the organization’s progress from the last grant rounds? Ms. Natusch replied that their visibility was reduced tremendously. The organization had to rebuild their membership and their Board. There was no in-person programming. They started a pandemic documentation project and hired

a web designer for this process to make submissions engaging and visually attractive. The web designer did such a great job that New London Landmarks would like to rehire her to revamp their website. The organization also had a part time archivist who worked approximately 5 hours a week. The archivist lost her primary job at the beginning of the pandemic and moved out of the area. NLL did not include a new hire in this round due to the small unventilated office that the person would be working out of, but depending on how things go, they may hire the archivist again during this 2-years period but did not want to commit to it and it is not included in the grant application.

Ms. Acly asked if the organizations goals were developed with the Board. Ms. Natusch replied yes. Ms. Natusch also pointed out that NLL had not seen SHPO's ISCB application as the organization's strategic plan and programming were developed and did not know that SHPO would be placing an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Fortunately, NLL had been following that path recently, so everything lined up neatly. The organization is also going to develop a written DEI policy in September.

Ms. Burgess added that this was a great application. She applauded the work that NLL is doing and stated that it could be a model for other organizations. How was the feedback gathered for assessing the organization's accomplishments? Ms. Natusch replied it was a mixture of self-assessment and when possible, surveys. Surveys were done for the pandemic documentation project. Sometimes it is number of attendees or diversity of attendees.

The organization wants feedback, but they don't want providing the feedback to be a burden on their attendees. It was easier with in-person programming. Surveys were passed out at a table and collected. That would be more difficult with virtual programming, but they can email to communicate. They also track social media and funding coming in.

Chairman Elmore asked with one staff member, how do they get so much accomplished? Ms. Natusch replied they have a very active Board who are great and work many hours. Chairman Elmore also asked if they have lost any Board members during COVID? Ms. Natusch replied yes. People have left or are planning to leave. The Board is down to 10 members. They are trying to get it to 14 members. A few of the younger Board members acquired new jobs and moved out of state or are planning to move by the end of the year.

Ms. Acly asked if they owned 23 Franklin Street property? Ms. Natusch replied that they sold it. Before that project, the only negative comment the organization would typically receive from the community was "why aren't you buying the properties and saving them yourselves?" Most buildings were outside of the budget, but 23 Franklin Street came up at a tax auction. It was purchased for \$10,500 and is located in the Hempstead Historic District. It was built by Edward Hempstead. For 40 years it was home to the NAACP President, Mr. Linwood Bland, Jr. The home was in poor condition and had become a squatter's house, so NLL was so pleased that they were able to step in and save it. The project also

broke the perceived link between historic preservation and gentrification because it was rehabilitated into affordable home ownership opportunity. Ms. Acly congratulated Ms. Natusch on a job well done.

Mr. Butkus asked about preparing for the documentary and whether it would cover only events that took place more than 50 years ago or will it cover more recent events. Ms. Natusch stated that it will certainly cover events more recent events, but many that took place in older listed buildings. Ms. Dunne added that there are exceptions to the 50-year rule in the National Register for events of exceptional significance. Connecticut's State Register doesn't not have the same 50-year threshold for that reason.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of Stratford, Condition Assessment Report for Sterling Homestead, Stratford

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of Stratford

Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Stratford requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a CFR-qualified architect and engineering team to prepare a structural and condition assessment of the Sterling Homestead, located at 2225 Main Street. Staff recommended the application for funding. The Town of Stratford acquired this property last March. There was a residential inspection report completed that made some observations and recommendations to the Town as to what they may want to explore further. Some of the recommendations in the report did not comply with Secretary of Interior standards. Most of the windows are originals and the report did not give a compelling argument for replacement and Ms. Dunne would like them to investigate further. The Town acquired the property for community benefit. The building is probably fine for a single-family home or house museum right now, but if the Town is planning to use it as a place of assembly, SHPO recommends that the Town add include an evaluation in the RFP. Mr. Greg Reilly was on the call from the Town for any questions or concerns.

Chairman Elmore asked if there were any existing floor plans to kickstart the review and assessment? Ms. Dunne replied that there are none, just a footprint that is attached to the land records and no existing drawings. Chairman Elmore also asked Ms. S. Nelson and Ms. Acly if the project can be done for \$20,000 with no existing floor plan? Ms. S. Nelson replied that it would be very helpful to

the project to have floor plans and or drawings to save on time. Ms. Acly replied, as a consultant when there is not a lot of information available, it is helpful to create an RFP that is somewhat flexible in order to get the most for the project budget. Minimizing the number of consultants is another way to do that.

The Town could also develop a maintenance record for different parts of the building, that way consultants aren't spending their time researching that information.

Mr. Butkus stated that for instances like this, one of the most important questions is what the intended use of the building is. Ms. Dunne replied that she advised the Town to do so. This grant is to see what can be done with the building, not necessarily to restore it to what it was historically.

SHPO also suggested a public charrette to gather ideas from the public regarding the best use for the building.

Chairman Elmore commented the RFP needs to be structured so that the money is spent wisely the first time. This will avoid a second structural assessment having to be done when programming and use are being established.

Ms. Acly added that the Town could structure the RFP by suggesting some of the potentials uses for the property to assist the engineers.

Mr. Reilly, the Grant Writer for the project appreciated all the comments. The intended use of the building, from the mayor's office, is public assembly. The town has owned the property since last March and there is talk of leasing space to museum organizations. It is too soon to say who the tenants will be or when it will take place. Mr. Reilly added the number one priority of the mayor is public safety. If there is any use of the second floor, structural integrity would have to be covered.

4. Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, Town of New Milford, Self-Guided Walking Tour Materials for New Milford Center National Historic District, New Milford

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, Second by Mr. Butkus, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-4, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of New Milford
Amount: \$19,800.00

Ms. Dunne presented the application. The town of New Milford requested funding in the amount of \$19,800 for the development of materials for a self-guided walking tour of the New Milford Center National Historic District. Staff recommended the application for funding. Ms. Dunne provided a brief overview of the CLG grant program for the new Council members. SHPO's Certified Local Government grants come from the federal Historic Preservation Fund and a match is not required as with our CIA funded grants. SHPO did advise the applicant, since the nomination is over 30 years old, as they are developing content, they should include research to investigate ownership, occupancy, and events that are more than what has traditionally been recognized. Ms. Liba Furhman was on the call from the town to answer any questions or concerns.

Mr. Butkus asked what the longevity of the proposed signage is and what information will be added to the sign? The print should be legible, permanent, and not fade away. Ms. Furhman replied the sign will be the type you see in the National Parks with a heavy-duty laminated surface.

The Town has installed this type of sign in the past. Some are about 20 years old and are still in good condition. Included on the sign will be a brief history of the property, owner, what the building was used for, and how the building has evolved over the years. Some of the buildings are still residences. The Union Bank building has been converted into a second-floor office space and first floor function space. This will be reflected in the narrative on the sign. Mr. Butkus also added the colors chosen for the sign are important as some fade quicker than others in the sun and what may look good on a computer screen may not look the best on the actual signage. Ms. Furhman replied that will be considered.

Ms. Acly asked Ms. Dunne if SHPO maintained a list of consultants? Ms. Dunne replied SHPO does not maintain a list for graphic designers, but they do maintain a list for architects, architectural historians, and historians that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards.

Per state procurement guidelines, the applicant can directly solicit a consultant based on the grant amount. The use of a town vendor would also be allowed. The local guidelines may differ.

Ms. Carnell added this is the type of project her firm works on regularly. If the applicant hires a consultant, historian, or an architectural historian, they often have graphic designers and vendors they work with and could be recommend. In terms of quality, the consultant can provide that information.

Chairman Elmore asked Ms. Carnell if she thought the grant amount was sufficient for this scope of work? Dr. Faber thought the amount for the signage was high. Ms. Carnell replied in terms of the fabrication of the sign and the installation included in the budget, she felt the grant amount was solid. It does

take time for the designers to complete a layout. Ms. Furhman added they have a volunteer designer at their disposal who will be working with them on the preliminary layouts before the final design. Once turned over to a designer, a template will be in place. The first sign will take about 5 hours, the next will not take as long.

Dr. Glaser asked if the research for the project was already complete? If so, where did the content come from? Ms. Furhman replied that most of the content is coming from the nomination and local historians.

They will all be working together on the research and drafting a copy. Dr. Glaser mentioned that understanding the Town's history is important, but she hopes they can focus on the broader significance and context as well and add that to the RFP. Ms. Burgess agreed with Dr. Glaser, it is important to also focus on diverse group and women as well. Ms. Furhman mentioned some of the buildings were part of the Underground Railroad. Also, the New Milford Green was originally developed by a woman. Dr. Glaser added to try to make the information as current as possible.

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 – Todd Levine

1. Norwich

Mr. Levine reported on the property at 1 Old Highway Road, which HPC recently voted to refer to the Office of the Attorney General. The owner had withdrawn his demo application and SHPO was working with him on a solution to keep a portion of the building. That effort failed and he has reapplied for a demolition permit. It is now with the OAG and they will decide if they are going to pick it up or not.

2. Bridgewater Grange

SHPO has been working with them since 2016. The Town has just recently decided that they are going to move forward with demolition. This is also sitting at the OAG and they will decide if they are going to pick it up for an injunction.

Mr. Levine also asked Ms. Dunne to have the folks in New Milford reach out so the Underground Railroad information can be added to the Connecticut freedom Trail.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney reported that the Working Group Regarding the Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties, created through legislation over the summer, held its organizational meeting yesterday. The Working Group is tasked with developing a plan for supporting and facilitating efforts by municipalities, historical societies, and other non-profit entities whose purposes include historic preservation. The plan must also include a method of administering a revolving fund that may be established as a resource for supporting these efforts.

In addition to the members of the Working Group, which consists of historians, museum professionals, architects, and preservationists from across the State, Senator Hartley and Representative Brian Smith were also in attendance. The group will be meeting every two weeks until February 2022, when the final report is due to the legislature.

SHPO had two new interns from UConn's Master of Public Policy Program start last week. Ms. Natalie Roach and Mr. Sam Newton will be working on an updated historic preservation economic impact study for the State and will be with the office throughout the academic year.

Finally, Mr. Kinney reported that Ms. Fink has been working hard on updating the Historic Restoration Fund grant program in accordance with guidance provided by the Council. Ms. Fink is developing an online application that should be available for the upcoming round in the Fall. Applications will be due in November and will be heard at the January 2022 meeting. The program will be shifting to four rounds of grants a year instead of two in order to break up the workload for Council and staff.

SHPO is also working on developing an exemption list, which will be types of work/project types that do not require the submission of plans and specifications. Only projects that consist entirely of the types of work included on the exemption list will not require plans and specifications to come before Council. The hope is that these changes will help to streamline and improve the HRF application and review process.

SHPO staff and members of Council had also previously discussed the potential for splitting the HRF program into two tiers based on types of work, funding levels, or project urgency. The current plan is to maintain a single tier of funding and to evaluate whether the exemption list reduces or eliminates the need for a second tier.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro reported that all of the museums, except Prudence Crandall (which is still closed for restoration), have been experiencing visitation that equaled or exceeded visitation during the same period in 2019. This was partially thanks to the CT Summer at

the Museum program, which supported free entry to children 18 and under with one adult. This seemed to be spur visitation to museums across the state.

Thus far the museums have all opened safely, following the most up to date COVID guidance. The only issue was at New-Gate, where unfortunately, because of the loss of a seasonal staff member, the visitation was so high that the museum was temporarily closed on Mondays, simply because they did not have the staff and volunteers needed to open safely.

Mr. Mike McBride, long-time curator at the Henry Whitfield Museum retired on July 31. His contributions to the museum have been innumerable, and he is to be commended for his dedication and service. Ms. Shapiro was happy to report that Michelle Parrish has assumed Mr. McBride's role and is doing a wonderful job. It has been a nearly seamless transition due to the professionalism of the staff.

Ms. Shapiro then provided more specific information about what has been going on at each museum.

Work is not yet completed at the Prudence Crandall Museum, mostly due to issues surrounding the painting contractors. DAS, who is managing the project, continues to navigate that situation.

Ms. Shapiro and Ms. Joan DiMartino continue to work with scholars and community members to create the exhibit narrative for the museum. Most recently, it was decided that the interpretation should be viewed as one that is constantly in process and working with input from many, the team has begun to visualize what that would look like as a permanent interpretive storyline.

Now that the construction is nearly done on the Prudence Crandall Museum, Ms. DiMartino is planning to move the collection from the storage boxes to various locations. Very little of the prior display items will be included in the new interpretation, because only a small fraction of the collections is specific to the house, and to the Crandall story.

The museum has partnered with the town of Canterbury and will be installing a bench with a plaque as part of the Toni Morrison Society's "Bench by the Road" project. The bench will be placed in memory of Sarah Harris, Julia Williams Garnet, and the other young African American women who were educated at the Crandall Academy. The bench is expected to be delivered in September, with an installation in October.

Visitation at the Eric Sloane Museum has also been up, and the giftshop has been selling out. The guided tour that is now being offered of Sloane's studio is very popular, and the museum staff believes it is directly related to the large number of books that are being purchased in the giftshop. There have been some mold issues in the tool exhibit, and new dehumidifiers will be purchased to help combat that issue. The old one's work, but they are so loud that they cannot be on when visitors are in the museum.

In exciting news, curator Mr. Andrew Rowand has been deeply involved in a project happening in the US Crafts community to build and send a wooden truss to be used in the

restoration of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Andrew has made two trips to the DC area, once to work on constructing the truss, and then when it was raised on the mall.

Nevan Carling, a CT carpenter and a Sloane volunteer, climbed the completed and raised truss to put the good luck pine bow on the top! Mr. Rowand has made a lot of connections in the hand tool and carpentry community in the last year, and the staff is excited to see these collaborations bring the museums some global attention! (Eric Sloane is a BIG DEAL in the global hand-tool community!)

As mentioned, visitation at New-Gate has been up, reaching over 100 on most weekdays and over 300 on the weekend days. Ms. Morgan Bengel continues to have a strong social media presence and the staff is waiting to see what kinds of programs will be brought back to the museum in the fall – depending on what the COVID situation looks like.

The biggest issue that New-Gate is facing now is a series of water tests indicating excess levels of certain bacteria. This seems to occur when there are long periods of heavy rainfall. Unfortunately, all efforts to correct this situation that are “easy” have failed, and it looks like a significant water chlorination system will need to be installed, which is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$40,000. Staff has been working very closely with the Department of Public Health to address the issue. Solutions are limited because of the nature of the underground mines and caverns.

The Henry Whitfield Museum hosted a Make Music Day performance on Father’s Day and over 150 people attended. Visitation has been steady, with a lot of out-of-state visitors who are stopping because of the highway sign on I-95. Ms. Michelle Parrish has been working to get proposals and funding in place for some of the updates needed to various systems at the House and in the Visitor’s Center. As mentioned, with Mr. Mike McBride’s retirement, Ms. Shapiro is looking to fill a slightly different position for the museums, that of Curator of Education. The position will work to create a unified presentation of school programs for all four of the museums, will interface with teachers and the Department of Education, and will present programs at the museums both virtually and on-site. The position will be based at a location to be determined depending on the location of the successful candidate.

Chairman Elmore asked if the conference Ms. Shapiro was attending was going to be recorded. Ms. Shapiro was not sure but will get back to him.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

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

Ms. Montanaro was not present at the meeting and Mr. Kinney read her notes to the Council. The "Olmsted in Connecticut Survey" team, The Red Bridge Group, will be on the ground making site visits in various parts of the State in mid-September. Ms.

Montanaro asked that any Council members who have Olmsted site contacts, suggestions for outreach, or access to Olmsted documents to please contact Mr. Chris Wigren at Preservation CT. The consultant team is also planning to conduct two community programs while they are here, one at Seaside Park in Bridgeport, and the other at Keney Park in Hartford. Watch Preservation CT email and social media for more information.

XVI. Public Forum – Ms. Mary Falvey

Ms. Falvey had nothing new to report.

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. S. Nelson, Second by Ms. Zoppo-Sassu, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Deborah D. Gaston

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday October 6, 2021 – Meeting format to be determined*