

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 9:30 am**

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams (see code for meeting in your email or contact Jonathan. Kinney@ct.gov for the code)

MINUTES

Council: Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Vice-Chairman Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Ms. Deanna Rhodes and Dr. Sarah Sportman

Absent: Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Sara Nelson

Staff: Mr. Kevin Berger, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Catherine Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine, Ms. Jenny Scofield, Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski

Guests: Ms. Jane Montanaro, Ms. Sara Zak, Ms. Anne Young, Mr. Joel Helander, Mr. Justin Humphries, Ms. Meg Lyons, Ms. Lori Fusco, Mr. Clifford Parker, Jr., Jane Montanaro, Mr. Aaron Marcavitch, Ms. Olga Hathaway, Ms. Vlada Ragonese

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order @9:35 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 and asked if there were any conflicts with staff members or Council. There were none.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

A. Minutes – August 7, 2024 Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Carnell, the Council voted to approve the August 7, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections.

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

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

A. Unfinished Action Items

1. Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Chester Public Library, Boiler Replacement, \$9,400. 21 W. Main St., Chester, CT.

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Burgess, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recall this item to the table.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-3, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Ms. Carnell, 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. Staff recommends this application for approval. Staff recommended this item for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Chester Public Library

Amount: \$9,400

Ms. Fink presented this application. The previous version of this application included repairs to the library's front entry steps and cheek walls. The Historic Preservation Council tabled the application and asked the applicant to provide more information about the conditions of the steps and surrounding masonry. A Technical Assistance grant provided funding for an architect, engineer, and mason to investigate the cause of the issues and make recommendations for repairs. Shortly after this report was produced, the town received notice that CT DOT will be performing work in front of the building, which may impact the entry to the library. This work will be completed within the next 5 years. While the town and library wait for more information from the CT DOT, the library would like to move forward with replacing the boiler. In the future, the library plans to apply for a subsequent Historic Restoration Fund grant for the entry steps.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Fink if she was aware of when the applicant will return for the remainder of the work? Ms. Fink replied more information is needed from the DOT, who is working with the municipality. Once this is done, a separate application will need to be submitted.

Dr. Glaser asked if a copy of the State Register Nomination could be included with the application. Ms. Fink responded yes.

Ms. Burgess asked who was overseeing the project of the boiler replacement? Ms. Fink replied the municipality is.

2. Partners In Preservation Grant, Preservation Connecticut, SFY 2025 Circuit Rider Program, increase in funding, State-wide, CT

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recall this application to the table.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

On a motion by Ms. Adusei, second by Dr. Horowitz, 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 this application for approval.

Applicant: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation doing business as
Preservation Connecticut
Amount: \$20,000

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presentation this application. Preservation Connecticut was awarded the annual Circuit Rider grant in May in the amount of \$300,000. This application represents an increase of an additional \$20,000. This is because our Environmental Review team negotiated a mitigation package resulting from the loss of some historic buildings in the Winchester Repeating Arms Historic District. The \$200,000 dollar amount for mitigation was to help local homeowners with improvements to their home, but that meet the Secretary of Interior standards.

Something similar was done in Stamford, which Preservation Connecticut Circuit Riders assisted with. We would like to provide funding this time around to them for things like application review, help with contracts, reviewing the final work, etc., there's a lot of time involved. We would like to increase the Circuit Rider contract for this activity.

Mr. Elmore asked Ms. Dunne for clarity on the dollar amounts. Mr. Dunne replied the \$300,000 was the Circuit Rider grant for the fiscal year. The \$200,000 was mitigation to be paid by the developer that's doing the work.

The \$20,000 represents 10% of the project cost which will be allocated for administration, but we did not want to take it out of the funds that would go towards the grant program. We wanted all \$200,000 to go to the homeowners.

B. New Action Items

1. Survey and Planning Grant, First Congregational Church of Cromwell, architectural plans and specifications for church bell tower, Cromwell, CT

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Dr. Glaser, 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 approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: First Congregational Church of Cromwell
Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The church competitively selected Cirrus Engineers to do a conditions assessment and identified this project as critical. They do plan to submit an HRF application in 2025. The proposal for the plans comes from Cirrus. It's a solid budget proposal, so we would like to help fund this application so that they can move forward with an HRF. Mr. Clifford Parker was on the call to answer and questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Dunne if this funding would be distributed in 2026 since it is already 2025. Ms. Dunne replied yes, it would be for the October 2025 round, which would be awarded, hopefully, in January 2026.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked if the grant was non-matching? Ms. Dunne replied yes, the grant is plans and specification to support an HRF grant. SHPO is still offering these as non-matching grants, but the cap is at \$20,000.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, James Merrill House Foundation, architectural plans and specifications for water management issues, James Merrill House, Stonington, CT

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. Burgess, 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 approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: James Merrill House Foundation
Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. SHPO funded their successful NHL nomination. They did fund their own cap grant, and, as shown in the application, that assessment identified the water infiltration issue. SHPO would like to help them get the necessary plans and specifications to address those issues, since they seem to be the most critical. Ms. Meg Lyons, James Merrill House Foundation Board, was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked for clarity on the HVAC system, dehumidification exacerbating the water infiltration issues, but in the discussion of the actual work that didn't seem to be mentioned in any further detail. Ms. Lyons replied, they have split systems that they have put in the building and specifically James Merrill Historic apartment. There are humidity monitors, and they are watching the humidity very carefully and adjusting it to ensure that the apartment and its contents are well taken care of.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Suffield Historical Society, condition assessment and HVAC feasibility study, Alexander King House, Suffield, CT

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Dr. Glaser, 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 approval.

Applicant: Suffield Historical Society
Amount: \$20,000.00

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Suffield Historical Society received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the HVAC system, and so we are super glad that they came to us for a grant to help specify it so that it complies as much as possible with the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. SHPO did something similar for Wood Memorial in South Windsor a couple years ago.

Ms. Dunne did express concern about the budget capping at \$40,000, SHPO could only give them \$20,000.

Ms. Sara Zak with the Historical Society said they will be matching a little bit with the ARPA funding. They will make up anything that goes over the \$ 40,000. Ms. Sarah Zach was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Butkus commented that he was glad to see the ARPA funding was given without the plans and specs.

4. Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant, Town of Wethersfield, architectural plans and specifications for Academy Building interior, Wethersfield, CT

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Dr. Sportman, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, 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 approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of Wethersfield
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Wethersfield, a newly minted Certified Local Government, is coming in for a supplemental CLG grant to be matched with the Federal Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant. The budget on the supplemental needs to be modified. SHPO did have to lower the cap on the supplemental to \$20,000. The applicant is aware of this, so we're awarding \$20,000 under the CLG grant and 20 under the HPEG. That would be a total award of \$40,000 for a budget of what they're estimating to be \$80,000, which the town has committed to this resource. Ms. Vlada Ragonese was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Butkus stated that SHPO does maintain a list of qualified consultants in various fields, but we do not make specific recommendations as to who to hire.

Ms. Ragonese clarified that the previous work was funded through Preservation Connecticut. It was not part of this grant funding request, that's for work that has already been completed for a structural assessment through that agency. This is just to show that they already completed other work to preserve the building.

Ms. Dunne clarified that for the record, SHPO's projects do require architects that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, but do not make any specific recommendations. All the projects need to be competitively

bid, then SHPO will review the credentials of the consultant the grantee wants to hire to make sure that they meet the Standards. SHPO makes every effort to clarify that we do not recommend specific consultants or contractors.

Vice Charman Butkus confirmed this project will be going to bid at the expected budget of \$80,000. Ms. Dunne confirmed the project was going to bid at \$80,000.

5. Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, Town of Wethersfield, architectural plans and specifications for Academy Building interior, Wethersfield, CT

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Carnell, 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 approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of Wethersfield
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Mr. Elmore asked, before any paperwork gets signed, if the \$30,000 can be corrected to \$20,000 so that all the paperwork is in order. Ms. Dunne replied the motion is always part of the contract and assured Mr. Elmore this would be done.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Dunne for clarity on how the two grants for Wethersfield would work together. Ms. Dunne replied that this does happen occasionally. The last time was November of 2021. There will be two separate assistance agreements, one for the supplemental Certified Local Government grant, which will use state funding and then an entirely different agreement for the Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, which will use federal funding. It is possible to get a state grant and match it with the federal grant. It doesn't happen often, but it is something available specifically to CLGs. Only CLGs can apply to the supplemental grant, but it will be two separate funding agreements.

6. Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, Town of Wilton, Historic Preservation Planning for Town of Wilton, CT

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Mr. Elmore, 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 approval.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of Wilton
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. This is the kind of activity that the Park Service likes to see. It also helps fulfill one of our federal responsibilities, which is historic preservation planning. The Town of Wilton is working on their plan of conservation and development, as towns do, and most towns do need to address their historic resources, but don't often benefit from a specific examination and recommendations. SHPO did something similar for the town of Westport many years ago. The town of Wilton is commended for getting ahead of things and identifying important areas of town that will need to be considered in their POCD. Ms. Fusco with the Wilton Historic District Commission was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Vice Chairman Butkus asked, as there is also a village district overlay, if there is an opportunity to create design guidelines? or if this effort would lead towards creating those because there is a specific provision of the Village District legislation that allows for a greater level of control. What is the goal of this study if it's already a historic district and it's got the village district overlay?

Ms. Fusco commented that there is a larger concern that we're having in our town. The district overlay is overseen by a different committee that addresses those specific issues. They just came into a situation where it was demonstrated how their process doesn't take into consideration the historic nature of things. They just saw something that went through their design review board that's not in a historic district, but it is a historic property in Wilton. It goes to them first, but they don't really comment on historic, they're just looking at design.

They're also not open to public comments so we're very limited in what influence we have over that department. By the time anything gets to us, it's so much further down the line.

What they are hoping to accomplish with this is to set some guidelines, and this is a pre-planning grant because our planning and zoning department is working on their overall master plan, but we would like to have this in place so they have some guidelines and so the historic nature of that particular area can be considered within the overall plan, where they fear that otherwise it would be ignored.

To give a little history, which was outlined as well in this application, the area is a National Register Historic District. Before her tenure on this Commission, she

had applied for a local historic district there and she believes it got through the state and approved and then it was turned down by our Selectman and because of that, they don't have a local historic district there. Guidelines are needed to be a foundation for the future, because this area also has some concerns with flooding. With the recent storms that happened there, there was a lot of flooding in that area, and they fear if nothing is in place, there will be larger developments. As Ms. Dunne said they are trying to get ahead of any problems.

Mr. Butkus also asked about the other districts that they have throughout town.

Ms. Fusco replied there are five, originally six, but one of them, Historic District Three, was absorbed and that property was moved to the Historical Society campus.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

A. Unfinished Action Items

1. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places – George and Ruth Bartlett House, 111 Goose Lane, Guilford

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Dr. Horowitz, voted to recall this nomination to the table.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application, for a second time. The George and Ruth Bartlett House, located at 111 Goose Lane, Guilford, is eligible for the State Register of Historic Places under Criterion One at the local level for its association with the abolition movement in Guilford, as the home of Captain George Bartlett and under Criterion 2 at the local level in architecture as an example of the work of Mr. John Frederick Kelly, an architect noted for his Colonial Revival style renovations and expansions of earlier houses. Most alterations are related to the renovation campaign by Kelly except for the 1950s restaurant wing, but the building maintains the majority of its location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of a Colonial Revival residence that was also the home of a notable member of the abolitionist movement. Ms. Jordan Sorensen, author of the nomination, was on the call.

Based on comments from last meeting, Ms. Sorensen has already incorporated those suggestions and edits into the final document, including Ms. Carnell's edits. Several representatives from the property owner, Yale - New Haven Health were on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Mr. Elmore commented he would like to see more of the landscape of the properties including photos and ariel photos.

Dr. Glaser asked for information on any enslaved people in town at that time or any abolitionist history.

Ms. Wisniewski commented on Mr. Elmore's and Dr. Glaser's suggestions, and Ms. Carnell's edits will be incorporated into the nomination. Ms. Carnell noted the nomination was strong and she was happy to support the nomination.

On a motion by Dr. Horowitz, second Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the George and Ruth Bartlett House, located at 111 Goose Lane, Guilford, to the State Register of Historic Places.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

B. New Action Items

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

1. Local Historic Property Study Report, 98 Riverside Avenue, Greenwich, CT

Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), on a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary for the proposed Redman-Fitzgerald House, 98 Riverside Avenue, Greenwich, CT as presented in the study report transmitted by the Town of Greenwich on August 14, 2024.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this study report. She asked the Council to make comments so she can pass them along to the local Historic District Commission or Properties Commission, and in particular comments on the boundaries. This is a single parcel. The report is complete. Ms. Ann Young from the town of Greenwich was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Mr. Elmore sent kudos to the author of the report on the first paragraph, which set the tone for the report.

Dr. Horowitz and Chairman Butkus agreed they both learned a lot from the report.

2. Local Historic Property Study Report, 515 Stillson Rd., Fairfield, CT

Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q (c), on a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary for the proposed Caroline and Walker

Sherwood House, 515 Stillson Rd., Fairfield, CT as presented in the study report transmitted by the Town of Fairfield on August 12, 2024.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. This property was already listed on the State Register some time ago. The owner wants extra protection on the property by having it locally designated. The owner, Dr. Daryn Reyman-Lock is in full approval and was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Dr. Glaser commented for a suggestion the local and national destinations to have more of a direct connection. The local history tends to be isolated and needs to be known due to the value negativity of its value. The local history connects to the national which is evenly important.

Mr. Elmore asked for a sentence to be added on how large the property is.

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates - Todd Levine

Mr. Levine just spoke with the Attorney General's office. They are trying to schedule a discussion with the owners of the South Main Street properties in Norwalk for the last week of September.

Chairman Butkus asked that the Attorney General's office receive a copy of the special Zoom meeting. Mr. Kinney replied he and Ms. Wisniewski are working on it as the ZOOM did produce a transcript which will be placed in the HPC folder as well.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney summarized the HPC statutory training from a few weeks ago and reviewed the next steps/action items from that training. The PowerPoint slide and recording of the meeting was placed into the HPC folder as well.

There was a question about the statutory language regarding reimbursement of HPC members for necessary expenses. He has reached out to our Fiscal Office and is still waiting on a response as to what that procedure would be should a member put in a request.

MR. Kinney would also like to put together a small working group essentially with a few members of SHPO staff and a few members from HPC to take on several items, including reviewing the statutory language for potential technical corrections, which we could certainly do as part of a DECD bill to submit for the next 2025 legislative session.

Another item is to create a working document that would outline SHPO's and HPC's common understanding of our working practices that might not be completely clarified in the statutory language. It would document those practices as they've evolved over time, so as we move forward with new members, new SHPO staff, those practices are not lost to time. He is looking for 3 members of the HPC to volunteer if you're interested in serving on networking group. Please follow up with an email.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Ms. Shapiro was happy to report that DECD is going to advance a biennial budget request in the agency budget for bond funds to begin to address the remaining restoration of the museum properties. Although she has estimated that the costs to do everything in her long-range plans for the properties (which include a visitors' center at the Crandall Museum after restoration of our current buildings and architectural ruins) at about \$20 MM, the agency is going to spread the bond requests over the next four years. For the next biennial budget, which covers FY 26 and 27, the request will be \$4.8 M for FY 26 and \$5.6 M for FY 27. Those first funds will be allocated to complete the work at Old New-Gate to stabilize the four-story cell block as well as Viets Tavern, and to modernize the visitors center restrooms and replace the roof and put the white barn into service. The next tranche of funds will be for the restoration of the Carter House at the Crandall Museum and plans for the barn and visitor's center.

DECD will also request \$5 M in both FYs for Good to Great. We are hoping to get the release of past budget approved items at one of the next two bond commission meetings, so we can run the program in FY 25 and 26.

Crandall Museum

1. Staff is working on a project to connect the stories of the Prudence Crandall Museum to the commemoration of America 250. This work is paid for by a grant from the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor.
2. The Museum is hosting an event on Sunday where nationally known quilt and textile artist Ed Johnetta Miller will be presenting two sessions of card making based on her artistic techniques, to accompany her mini exhibit featuring quilted pieces of art relating to the Crandall story. Ed Johnetta is a nationally known quilting artist who creates, shares and teaches the use of fiber arts to highlight social justice issues. She is a past recipient of the Governor's Art Award bestowed by the CT Arts Council and is a CT teaching artist. <https://edjohnetta.com/>

Eric Sloane Museum

1. The museum will host the SPARK program on October 12th, an interactive experience that offers a hands-on introduction to various skilled trades and crafts for learners of all ages. It also serves as a platform to highlight the increasing demand for trade professionals and makers in the workforce. This event is a fantastic opportunity for

individuals to explore different trades, seek answers to their questions, and gain valuable insights into potential lifelong interests and prosperous careers. This program is presented in partnership with Trades Up, formerly Touch a Trade, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

2. We are also continuing to work on the transfer of property that abuts the museum from DEEP to DECD, so that it is easier to manage as one parcel.
3. Andrew Rowand is on the Kent America250 committee, assuring that the museum will have a leading role in the programming for 2026.

Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

1. New-Gate is moving ahead with the archaeological plan for the stabilization of the four-story cell block with funds from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasure's grant. Cathy Labadia, Mary Dunne, Morgan Bengel and I have had meetings with the National Park Service to answer questions, and we hope to have approval of the plans soon.
2. On Friday 9/13, the Museum will host a ceremony that will mark Old New-Gate's participation in the CT Freedom Trail, with a presentation by John Mills on Prince Mortimer.

After a storied life, starting with his capture on the coast of Guinea and transport to the CT colony, he was incarcerated at Old New-Gate Prison in 1811, when his owner, George Starr accused Prince Mortimer of attempting to poison him by placing arsenic in his morning chocolate. He was 87 years old. Prince was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to New-Gate Prison for Life.

When New-Gate closed in 1827, Prince and his fellow incarcerated men and women were moved to a new Prison in Wethersfield. On March 11, 1834 Prince died in prison at the age of 110.

3. On Sunday, 9/15, the museum will host its annual "Bat Day" in collaboration with DEEP, so head over to New-Gate if you want to learn more about those furry critters that help control the pesky bug situation in CT!

Henry Whitfield State Museum

1. A new event, the museum hosted Porch Fest (part of a national event) on September 7th attracting over 250 people to enjoy the two bands that played on the Whitfield lawn. The overarching comment that curator Michelle Parrish heard was, "I never knew this was here and I'll have to come back!"
2. Welcome Fest is coming up this Sunday, September 15th, this event is part of the national campaign to ensure

that newcomers both to the U.S. and to the community and its region feel that they have an important place in the community.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies - Jane Montanaro, Preservation CT

Ms. Montanaro thanked SHPO and the HPC very much for awarding the \$20,000 addition to the Circuit Rider program for the Winchester Homeowners Capital Grant program. They have received 46 applications and are in the process of reviewing those with the committee made up of representatives from New Haven Preservation Trust in the community and Preservation Connecticut. They met yesterday and reviewed 12 applications. They are excited to be working on this project and it's a great use of funds for that community.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second Ms. Rhodes, this meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deborah D. Gaston

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – Meeting Format TBD***