

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 @ 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)

MEETING

- Council:** Mr. Tom Elmore, Dr. Margaret Faber, Ms. Karyn Gilvarg (filled in for Chairwoman Sara Nelson), Dr. Leah Glaser, Ms. Kathy Maher, 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 Wisniewski
- Guest:** Ms. Cathy Bach, President - Tolland Historical Society
Ms. Mary Falvey, CT Preservation Action
Ms. Diane Jellerette – Norwalk Historic Society
Mr. Mike Forino, Preservation Connecticut
Ms. Jane Montanaro, Preservation Connecticut
Ms. JoAnne Mansfield, Town of Warren
Ms. Sally Whipple, Old State House
Mr. Todd Bryant and Ms. Daron Lock, Buckley - Curry House
Ms. Elaine McCarthy and Mr. Randolph Briggs, Owners, Buckley – Curry House

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review of Public Comment Procedures

Ms. Shapiro read aloud the Public Comments Procedures.

III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest

Ms. Gilvarg read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest procedures.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. August 5, 2020

Dr. Faber was recused and wanted to add clarity on item **V.a.** Middle Haddam Association. The Middle Haddam School was asbestos abated in 1988 and lead paint was assumed.

b. Mr. Kinney mentioned Chairwoman Nelson wanted to clarify item **V.c.** Rocky Hill Congregational Church. (from August 5th meeting).

Chairwoman Nelson suggested that rather than vote to change the wording of the motion, Ms. Dunne speak with the applicant to work on details and will make sure the final product meets all standards.

Ms. Dunne mentioned that as long as the cap was not exceeded the applicant should be fine. This can be discussed further at the upcoming October 7th meeting.

The August 5, 2020 minutes were approved.

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second, Dr. Faber
(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – 2) (Roll call vote)*

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

a. Wood Memorial Library Association, Wood Memorial Library, 783 Main Street, South Windsor - Survey and Planning Grant

On a motion by, Ms. Maher, Second by Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Staff recommends the application for funding.

Applicant: Wood Memorial Library Association

Project: Consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment report for the Wood Memorial Library (1927), 783 Main Street, South Windsor

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Wood Memorial Library Association requests \$20,000.00 in funding to obtain consulting services of a 36-CFR qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a conditions assessment report for the 1927 Wood Memorial Library. SHPO staff recommends approval of this grant. The Wood Memorial Library is also a museum and if the grant is awarded, Ms. Dunne will work with the applicant to develop an RFP to include a museum specialist to help maintain the museum's collection. This is a conditions assessment, not plans and specs yet.

Ms. Maher thanked Ms. Dunne for recognizing the interior space of the library.

She suggested it would be a good idea for the applicant to apply for an IMLS Cap Grant to bring in an interior specialist to make the assessment of what is needed to go along with the historic aspect of the project. Ms. Kathy Craig Lavarta, an IMLS assigned specialist, comes highly recommended. Ms. Maher will send Ms. Dunne the IMLS link.

b. First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown - Survey and Planning Grant

On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Staff recommends the application for funding.

Applicant: First Church of Christ, Congregational

Project: Consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified consultant to prepare a State Register nomination for First Church of Christ Congregational (1871) 190 Court Street, Middletown.

Amount: \$8,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The grant is for a State Register nomination. However, the applicant could pursue a National Register nomination at a later date. The applicant did consult with our State Register Coordinator, Ms. Wisniewski, and she determined that the application can move forward.

Ms. Maher asked Ms. Dunne if she was to assist the applicant in selecting an appropriate consultant for the project. Ms. Dunne replied, “always”.

Ms. Gilvarg questioned if the photos of the church’s tower, parish house, or meeting hall will be included in the nomination. Ms. Dunne replied that they will be evaluated as part of the nomination.

c. Stewardship Relief Grant, Multiple applicants

On a motion by Dr. Woodward, Second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Purpose: Basic utility costs per grant guidelines

Applicant:	Amount requested
Clinton Historical Society	\$1000.00
Middlesex County Historical Society	\$1,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING:	\$2,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented the set of 2 applications listed below. The applications are all posted in Dropbox. She said the applicants are grateful and thanked the Council for continuing to support this program. 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.

d. Preservation Connecticut, Statewide – Partners in Preservation Grant

On a vote by Dr. Faber, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of 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.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Staff recommends the application for funding.

Applicant: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation doing business as Preservation Connecticut

Project: Circuit Rider Program SFY 2021

Amount: \$232,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Preservation Connecticut is requesting \$232,000 in funding in order to continue the Connecticut Circuit Rider Program for State Fiscal Year 2021. SHPO staff recommends the funding of this application. The Circuit Rider Program is evolving and continues to be a great asset to the SHPO staff and to the wider preservation community.

Ms. Jane Montanaro, Executive Director of Preservation Connecticut, was on-line and expressed her appreciation for ten years of support SHPO has shown. The program is growing with 3 Circuit Riders in the field. Communication and the working relationship with SHPO are strong. PCT can now mobilize teams of engineers, architects, and other professionals and they look forward to expanding their teams to prevent continuing demolitions across the State and to assist property owners in making important decisions. The line items are in the budget for equipment, office supplies, updating company's handbook, laptops, and phones. A drone for field use would be very helpful due to our current world conditions. The grant could also be used to expand their social media platform as well. Mr. Mike Forino, Circuit Rider is on-line and appreciate SHPO's support. The drone will be his specialty.

Dr. Woodward asked if they were aware that FAA certification had to be obtained for the drone. Ms. Montanaro replied, "yes they are aware".

Ms. Maher applauded Preservation Connecticut for the ability to adapt to our current world conditions and continue to provide excellent service to the community. She is a big supporter of drones and is excited for their team.

Ms. Maher also thanked Circuit Riders Ms. Stacy Vario and Mr. Brad Schide for their commitment as well.

e. Ledyard Congregational Ecclesiastical Society, 15 Church Hill Road, Ledyard Survey and Planning Grant

On a vote by, Ms. Maher, Second Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Ledyard Congregational Ecclesiastical Society

Project: Consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment report for the Bill Store and Way Station (1816) 15 Church Hill Road, Ledyard.

Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application and staff recommends it for funding.

The Ledyard Congregational Ecclesiastical Society is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting services of a 36-CFR qualified architect and appropriate team to prepare a condition assessment for the Bill Store and Way Station.

Ms. Dunne stated that she will work closely with the applicant to draft proposals and help them to select an appropriate architectural team. A conditions assessment is the logical first step in making the building more available to the public.

Mr. Elmore asked for clarity on the survey and planning grant application. The handwritten form speaks of an archeological survey and report, but the project description speaks of a qualified architect. Ms. Dunne replied that was a good catch and she had told the applicant this fell under pre-development studies. She simply did not check the correct box.

Ms. Maher added this is an important project and more work is needed on the application. She was concerned that proceeding would cause a lot of extra work for Ms. Dunne. Could they possibly bring this back to October's meeting? Is there any imminent threat to the property? Ms. Dunne replied, "there was no imminent threat to the property, and she would have no problem working through the grant with the applicant. SHPO likes to take the time to assist applicant through this process and it is quite normal. Ms. Maher suggested that if a sample grant can be provided to help assist new grantees, it may improve the applications. Ms. Dunne replied that she had done so and will discuss all concerns with the applicant.

Dr. Faber asked for clarity on the scope of the project. Does it include a conditions assessment and specifications and plans? Ms. Dunne mentioned that it was worked down to a just a conditions assessment, this a non-matching grant and the applicant would not be able to complete all three for the requested amount. Ms. Dunne mention that was written in and should have been removed.

Ms. Gilvarg asked if everyone agreed on moving forward with the funding with minor changes and concerns.

Ms. Dunne added that she will work with the applicant to correct concerns, to secure a good project team, and that the project will result in a good product.

f. Tolland Historical Society, Tolland County Courthouse, Tolland – Historic Restoration Fund Grant

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, Second by Ms. Maher, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-6, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Staff recommends the application for funding.

Applicant: Tolland County Historical Society

Project: The rehabilitation of the bell tower and cupola on the 1822 Tolland County Court House

Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Tolland Historical Society is requesting funding in the amount of \$100,000 for restoration of the cupola and belfry on the 1822 Tolland County Courthouse. SHPO staff recommend approval of this application.

The Tolland Historical Society previously received a Survey and Planning grant in 2019 to complete a scope of work and appropriate research and engineering work by a certified preservation structural engineer for repairs to the cupola and belfry. Ms. Beth Acly, Structural Engineer from Cirrus Engineering was on the call. She completed the documents and helped to document the dismantling, shoring and protection, carpentry, woodwork, and painting. Ms. Cathy Bach, of the Tolland Historical Society was also on the call to answer any questions the Council had.

Dr. Faber asked if the bell tower and copula were going to be altered at all. Ms. Fink replied not to her knowledge. The applicant has a good relationship with the local Historic Commission. Conversations will be had prior to any work being completed.

Ms. Cathy Bach added that she sits on the Historic District Commission and thanked SHPO and the Council for their support in this project.

Ms. Gilvarg asked for clarity on a fixed or swinging bell clapper. Ms. Fink will get back to Ms. Gilvarg after more research is complete.

Ms. Bach added there was question to whether the bell was to swing or be stationary. If only the clapper would move and what effect it would have on the structure.

Ms. Beth Acly was on-line, but had technical difficulties.

(Ms. Maher exited the meeting @10:30 a.m., did not vote)

g. Warren Historical Society, Brick Schoolhouse, Warren - Historic Restoration Fund Grant

On a motion by, Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council votes 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-5, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Staff recommends the application for funding.

Applicant: Warren Historical Society

Project: The replacement of the wood shingle roof and rehabilitation of the wooden windows on the Warren brick schoolhouse

Amount: \$10,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Warren Historical Society is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the replacement of the wood-shingle roof and repair of the windows.

Ms. Fink mentioned that the Warren Historical Society presented this application in July 2020 where Council asked for a condition's assessment.

Preservation Connecticut's Mr. Mike Forino was on the line and facilitated a circuit rider mini-grant for Mr. Jim DeStefino, Professional Structural Engineer and registered Architect, to determine the project's top priority. That priority was the deteriorated cedar shingle roof. After further investigation of the building, they discovered the original window sashes in the attic. Mr. DeStefino suggested to the applicant that the sashes be restored and installed. Ms. JoAnne Mansfield from the Warren Historical Society was on the call as well.

Mr. Forino added that Ms. Fink summed everything up perfectly. It was confirmed by Mr. DeStefino that the roof is in desperate need of repair.

Ms. Gilvarg asked what the date of the building and is the brick original? Mr. Forino replied, "1784, and yes the brick is original from that time".

Dr. Faber added that it is exciting they located the window sashes and that they will be removing the vinyl. She asked why a town meeting was held for a preservation easement instead of just speaking with the town's attorney. Ms. Fink replied, "the applicant leases from the town and they just wanted to be cautious". The Attorney has to review the paperwork.

Ms. Joanne Mansfield, Town of Warren was on the call. She explained the Attorney indicated they had to hold a town meeting. She will look into if it can be done remotely.

h. Connecticut Public Affairs Network dba Connecticut Democracy Center, Hartford - Partners in Preservation Grant

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, Second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council votes to award a Partners In Preservation Grant, contingent on available funding from 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-5, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Connecticut Public Affairs Network, dba Connecticut Democracy Center

Project: Connecticut Freedom Trail Outreach and Education

Amount: \$248,906.00 over 2 years

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Connecticut Public Affairs Network dba the Connecticut Democracy Center is requesting funding in the amount of \$248,906.00 over two years to manage the Connecticut Freedom Trail by identifying and contracting with a Freedom Trail Community Outreach Coordinator and Freedom Trail Intern to fulfill the Freedom Trail Strategic Plan by creating a Freedom Trail narrative, brochure, website, and learning opportunities over a two-year period. The project will teach history, promote historic preservation, and increase Freedom Trail audiences. SHPO staff recommends funding this application.

As the motion reads, funding is contingent on the availability of funding from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut. SHPO is working on spending down its CIA balance. Balance will be about \$500,000.00 along with other grants awarded at this meeting. There are other grants that precede this one for October. Upon our next deposit in October, if the grant is approved, it can be funded.

Mr. Levine, Connecticut Freedom Trail Coordinator for SHPO, mentioned that the Connecticut Freedom Trail documents and designates sites that embody the struggle for freedom and human dignity and celebrates African American communities. It was established in 1995 by an act of the Connecticut General Assembly and is a Department of Economic & Community Development initiative, which is a law. Mr. Levine has worked with Ms. Sally Whipple on this application and complemented her on her thoroughness. Mr. Levine made 3 points about the Freedom Trail: 1. In 2008, a Strategic Plan was developed that identified staffing as a major priority.

When Mr. Levine was hired, he was told 25% of his time would be spent on developing the Freedom Trail, but that has not happened due to lack of SHPO staffing. In 2018, the Committee reevaluated the strategic plan and again reaffirmed staffing was imperative. 2. Reaching under- represented communities and documenting new historic sites are also priorities. 3. Cleaning up the Freedom Trail website is also necessary as it has been hacked. New brochures are needed. Several sites have been added within the past 9 years. A new category has been added - Civil Rights of the 20th Century.

Ms. Sally Whipple thanked SHPO and the Council for their support and recollected how she has been a fan of the Freedom Trail for years. By pulling the narrative together, we can make a difference on how CT's past is perceived and how the present is lived. A Community Outreach person will be so important. She has seen it succeed in other states. It is also important to bring the concept of equity into the project itself. The project will align with the work they do at the Old State House and is happy to join history with preservation.

Dr. Glaser mentioned she is pleased this project is moving forward. She and the History Dept. at CCSU can be a resource if needed. The Witness Stone Project was started in Europe focused on the holocaust.

New Milford has been working with the schools to put stones as memorials to acknowledge African American history in Connecticut towns, including West Hartford, Guilford, New Haven and Hamden.

Mr. Elmore thanked Mr. Levine and Ms. Whipple for the dedication to this project. Colchester was mentioned due to the demolition last week.

It was brought to his attention that the Bridge Street School - 1924, is being raised for a ballfield and a play scape. Mr. Levine asked Mr. Elmore to speak with him about this issue.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

a. The Frederick R. Buckley-Thomas A. Curry House, 300 Newtown Avenue, Norwalk - Nomination to the State Register of Historic Places,

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council votes to list the Frederick R. Buckley-Thomas A. Curry House, located at 300 Newtown Avenue, Norwalk, to the State Register of Historic Places.
(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application. This house is significant at the local level under Criterion 1 for literature as it derives its primary significance for its associations with pulp fiction writers Frederick Robert Buckley and Thomas Albert Curry, Jr. Buckley and Curry created over 400 works while residing there.

Parts of the house dates back the 18th century with a remodeling and addition in the 19th century. The authors of the application, Ms. Daron Lock and Mr. Todd Bryant as well as both owners of the property Ms. Elaine McCarthy and Mr. Randolph Briggs were on the call to answer any questions.

Mr. Todd Bryant added that this was a wonderful project. Figures 3 and 4 were an oversight on the nomination and are remnants of when it was identified as significant under Criterion 2. They were eliminated so Figures 3 and 4 should not be listed. Salvaged lumber was used throughout most of the house at the time of the original construction.

The two authors lived together, they were related, and they became two of the most pulp-fiction authors of that time. The outside of the house has changed, but the inside of the house has remained undisturbed since the 19th century.

Ms. Daron Lock added that it is a gem and the pulp-fiction coming from the Norwalk area is a treat. Mr. Bryant summed everything else nicely.

Ms. Gilvarg asked if any women were associated with the early history of this house and were they mentioned in the narrative.

Ms. Bryant responded that Mr. Buckley's wife is mentioned in the narrative. She was an actress on Broadway. It was rumored that she committed suicide after partying with the Silver Mine artists.

Ms. Wisniewski added she did not contribute to literature and pulp-fiction, which is the primary significance of the property.

She was married to Mr. Buckley and Mr. Curry was her brother. A line can be added to acknowledge what Mrs. Buckley was noted for.

Dr. Glaser mentioned a typo on the bottom of page 5 and would like to see more clarity on the term "sympathetic" in reference to the architecture. Is the property architecturally significant? Is it worth noting the age of the house (originally 18th century) and would it be an issue in terms of renovations to the house? Ms.

Wisniewski replied that the nomination originally came in under Criteria 1 and 2 for architecture but there have been substantial changes since the original construction.

The leading narrative for significance was the contribution of this type of literature that does not get recognized often. A narrative could be added about the site history. We try to target to that period.

Mr. Bryant mentioned that the current owners are doing a wonderful job in preserving the house. Owner, Elaine McCarthy thanked Mr. Bryant for the compliment. Her husband is a genealogist and has done most of the research on the house. We have tracked down paintings from the Silver Mine artists and purchased pieces from the Curry's children.

b. Bartholomew-Auger Farmstead, 298 Forest Road, North Branford- Nomination to the State Register of Historic Places (Original Motion March 4, 2020 - Agenda Item VI. b.)

Ms. Wisniewski stated that this nomination was tabled at the June 2020 meeting and again at the August 2020 meeting. The applicants are still not ready to present, so she is requesting that it to be called to the table then tabled again indefinitely without prejudice.

On a motion by Dr. Glaser, Second Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council votes to raise this motion.

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second Dr. Glaser, The Historic Preservation Council votes to retable this application without prejudice.

(Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – 1) (Roll call vote)

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties – CEPA Update and Cogshell Robinson House Demolition Colchester – Mr. Todd Levine

Mr. Levine informed the Council that the Cogshell Robinson House in Colchester, CT was demolished last Saturday at 7 a.m. in the morning. This item came before the Council last year. An agreement had been worked out with the property owner, but it was not honored. We worked with Mr. Brad Schide of Preservation Connecticut and a developer to rehabilitate the building with 90 apartments. CHFA did not fund due to COVID-19, this did not sit well with Mr. Jamie Noel, the property owner. Because he did not honor the agreements and had the building demolished, he broke the law and will have difficulty securing federal funding due to anticipatory demolition. Mr. Noel also lost community trust and it will be hard for him to develop the site or receive any kind of funding in the future.

Ms. Gilvarg asked Mr. Levine if there was any action the Attorney General's office can take. Mr. Levine replied AG Ponanski is on vacation and will speak with him when he returns.

Dr. Faber was devastated when she learned the building was demolished. She never saw a legal notice of demolition in the paper. If it was not properly noticed, could there be any repercussions? Mr. Levine replied that these are questions AG Ponanski will answer. Dr. Faber asked could we have filed an injunction. Mr. Levine replied that they had a signed agreement and was enthusiastically working with us so there would not have been a reason to.

Dr. Faber stated that this is the third house this family has demolished. Mr. Levine added that the community is picketing his grocery store.

Ms. Gilvarg commented it is imperative we speak with AG Polanski on this issue.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office/Museum Activities – Mr. Jonathan Kinney

The SHPO staff continues their excellent work across all our program areas and, as always, Mr. Kinney thanked them for their hard work and dedication each and every day.

In addition, staff have been working on exciting projects and initiatives such as the CT Freedom Trail, developing an annual report for its tax-credit programs. This will be a wonderful outreach and marketing tool for those programs, and SHPO's GIS/digitization project, which more information should be available for the Council at next month's meeting. SHPO staff is also working on continuing to do outreach through virtual meetings, in-person site visits.

At 1 p.m. today, several members of staff will be participating in the Connecticut League of History Organization's Summer School speaker series. A presentation on tools and initiatives communities can take to preserve their historic resources will be presented.

Finally, one of the things Mr. Kinney has been working on is to bring our public meetings further into compliance with the requirements of FOIA. He has developed a template to post a record of each vote taken at the meetings within 48 hours. Also working to cut down the amount of time it takes to get the meeting minutes posted on the web, which should be done within 7 days. Lastly, working to get videos of each meeting posted to the web along with captions for the hearing impaired.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Ms. Liz Shapiro

All four museums will be applying to the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, for membership. Following Ms. Morgan Bengel's virtual gathering of prison museums last month, Ms. Linda Norris of the Coalition reached out to talk about membership.

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is the only global network of historic sites, museums and memory initiatives that connects past struggles to today's movements for human rights. We turn memory into action. Ms. Shapiro is proud of taking this next step to put justice and equity at the forefront of our museum's work.

The museums will be applying to IMLS for a "Museums Empowered" grant to bring on Ms. Erica Ciallela (who has been working as a seasonal employee for two years and as a project researcher) as a "Social Justice Coordinator". (The title is subject to change.)

In that role, Ms, Ciallela will work with staff at all four of the museums to tweak museum mission statements, and to develop training and actions plans to help the museums advance diversity, equity, access and inclusion goals, and to become anti-racist organizations.

Old New-Gate Prison did not receive funding for their Save America's Treasures grant project to continue the stabilization of the four-story prison ruins.

New permanent interpretive signs have been designed for Old New-Gate Prison and will be installed before reopening in 2021. Many thanks to staff at Henry Whitfield, Mr. Chris Collins and Mr. Mike McBride, who built a fabulous large wooden kiosk for the parking lot at New-Gate. This will allow staff to easily community open hours, rules for visiting, museum information and more.

Mr. Andrew Rowand at the Eric Sloane Museum will be reinstalling the artwork at the museum over the next few weeks, as we wait for a gallery guidebook to the art collection that has been written and published as a joint project with the Friends of Eric Sloane. We will have that publication ready to go for the 2021 season. Now that the 50th anniversary of the museum has been postponed for two years (!), we are busy planning for the event to happen in 2021. Andrew is planning events that are virtual, in-person, and a combination.

The staff will tee up the opening with a virtual symposium on Eric Sloane in the late winter/early spring. Now that the world is more comfortable with hosting virtual conferences, it is believed there will be interest from across the world.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

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

Ms. Montanaro invited all to the Preservation Connecticut 2020 Awards, which will be held virtually on Wednesday September 9th @ 6 p.m. We will be presenting Mr. Bruce Clouette with the Janet Jainschigg Award for Preservation Professionals. The Harlan H. Griswold Award will be presented to the Merit Parkway Conservancy. SHPO will be receiving an award for their part in the Statewide Resiliency Planning for Preservation resulting from Hurricane Sandy. We will be touring the state the end of September and beginning of October for small in-person award ceremonies as well.

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Faber, Second by Dr. Glaser, the meeting ended at 11:41 a.m.

*Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday October 7, 2020 – Meeting venue to be determined*