

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Wednesday, October 2, 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](mailto:Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov) for the code)

MINUTES

Council: Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Vice-Chairman Paul Butkus, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Ms. Sara Nelson, Ms. Deanna Rhodes and Dr. Sarah Sportman

Absent: Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Dr. Leah Glaser

Staff: Mr. Cory Atkinson, 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. Christine Nelson, Ms. Danielle Goewey, Ms. Priyanka Panjwani, Ms. Annah Perch, Ms. Sally Whipple, Mr. William Bevacqua, Mr. Vinnie Klimas and Mr. Vance Taylor

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order @9:36 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 was one:

1. Ms. Burgess was recused from item V.B.6. - CT Democracy Center

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

A. Minutes – September 11, 2024 Meeting

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Nelson, the Council voted to approve the September 11, 2024 meeting minutes with corrections.

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

V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

1. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of East Lyme, Historic Structure Report, Brookside Farm, East Lyme, CT

On a vote by Ms. Burgess, second by Dr. Horowitz, 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Town of East Lyme
Amount: \$10,000.00

Mr. Dunne presented this application. The Town of East Lyme requested funding in the amount of \$10,000 to complete a Historic Structures Report for Brookside Farm. The town does plan to apply for funding to conduct a condition assessment. However, as noted in the application, considering recent findings related to the abolitionist movement, they'd like to start with reinterpretation of the house before they move forward with any additional work so whomever is chosen for the job, has an idea of the significance of the property. Ms. Anna Perch, Curator of the Brookside Museum, was not on the call, but Ms. Dunne answered any questions and comments.

Chairman Butkus asked Ms. Dunne to give a brief description of a historic structure report as opposed to the typical conditions assessment. She stated that an HSR will typically include more primary research and a deeper history of the house as well as the architectural evolution.

The historic structures report is going to be prepared by qualified architectural historian, who will perform more primary research on the house to discover any new areas of architectural or historical significance.

Then a condition assessment generally is more of a physical examination of issues that need to be addressed and treated. Sometimes a condition assessment will also start with an introduction then go into the history of the property so that it informs the assessment and subsequent preservation. The application notes that nothing has been done to the property since the 1970s, and that was a sort of aesthetic interpretation rather than an historic interpretation. Sometimes historic societies would acquire new properties and make changes to a property that may or may not be valid. Nothing has happened since the 1970s and now they can move forward with this new context.

Dr. Horowitz commented he welcomes and celebrates and endorses this proposal but wanted to add comments to take back to the applicant. They are rightly proud to celebrate the association of this structure with abolitionism, but this is the aspiring happy story, and wanted to remember the words of his teacher, Mr. David Blight, who says “America loves to be the country that freed the slaves but doesn't want to talk about being the country that enslaved all those people”. There's a reason that the railroad was underground. There was a reason that there had to be a movement for abolitionism, especially with their interest in having the story of politics in the 1850s be one that reflects on the present, it should be remembered that this movement was deeply unpopular, exposed its adherents to ridicule and violence, and they would have been ostracized. Along with telling the story of abolitionism, they should tell the appropriate context, which was that this was quite a dangerous and unpopular movement for most of the first half of the 19th century.

Ms. Dunne added Dr. Horowitz's point will be noted, and this is why the applicant wanted to concentrate on the historic study of the house first, then its architecture. The RFP will include a broader context as described. They were going to apply for a separate grant for more funding power.

Ms. Acly recommended clearly defining the HSR in the RFP so that there is no confusion with a conditions assessment.

2. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of Chester, Geophysical Survey for Human Burials, West End Cemetery, Chester, CT

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Dr. Sportman, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the 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-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

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

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Chester requested funding in the amount of \$5,000 to conduct a geophysical survey for human remains at the West End Cemetery. Staff Archeologist Cory Atkinson has been overseeing this grant program. Ms. Christine Nelson was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Elmore asked Ms. Dunne to share her screen so that Council could look at the area on a map on page 20 of the PDF.

Mr. Atkinson added the proposal was for the entire area which is 1 acre. The purpose was to look for any unmarked burials between the documented grave shafts to determine what space is available.

3. Survey and Planning Grant, Borough of Naugatuck, Architectural Plans and Specifications for the Bronson B. Tuttle House, Naugatuck, CT

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second Ms. Nelson, 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 recommends this application for approval.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Borough of Naugatuck
Amount: \$20,000.00

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Borough of Naugatuck requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to complete architectural plans and specifications for the Bronson B. Tuttle House. The Borough can meet the budget, but they are revising the scope to masonry repointing, repainting, and water intrusion. If funding allows, they will move forward with other tasks on their list.

Ms. Danielle Govey was on the call for any questions or concerns.

She explained the \$20,000 and their match are to start with repointing, painting, and the water intrusion. If funding allows, they will open the second floor, designing plans and specs to move forward and will apply for further funds to complete the work. They did have a discussion with SHPO to move forward and

it was suggested to apply for a survey and planning grant to strengthen the application.

Mr. Elmore asked if the application should be postponed for a month to redraft the application or should they proceed with the discussion being presented.

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second by Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council voted to amend the motion to prepare architectural plans and specifications for the Bronson Tuttle House, 18 Church St., Naugatuck, CT to address water intrusion, repointing, and exterior painting.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Acly asked if there was any mortar testing included in the application? It is important to identify the appropriate mortar especially with the thin joints. Ms. Goewey replied she was not sure and could get back with an answer. This should be part of the analysis if it has not already been done.

A roll call votes was taken for the motion as amended.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

4. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of Plymouth, Historic Resources Inventory, Town of Plymouth

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Ms. Nelson, 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 recommends this application for approval.

Applicant: Town of Plymouth

Amount: \$22,250.00

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3 Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Plymouth requested funding in the amount of \$22,250.00 to conduct a Historic Resources Inventory.

Plymouth is a CLG, and part of the CLGs' responsibilities is to perform surveys to identify historic resources in their community. A survey was funded 6 years ago, and this will be an addition to future properties.

Mr. Vinny Klimas was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Mr. Kilmas commented that this grant will allow the Town to complete the survey of certain neighborhoods like Poquabach and Fall Mountain, which have deep histories. This would help identify properties so they can be added to the historic registry. Ms. Dunne added that a required component of a survey is recommendations to the National Register. SHPO provides a non-matching grant

to encourage municipalities and nonprofits to apply for funding. SHPO does acknowledge recommendations made do often lead to a national register nomination.

Mr. Vance Taylor, Economic Development Consultant for the Town of Plymouth, added once they complete this survey, they will then reach out to individual property owners and make them aware, hopefully, of whatever loan and or grant opportunities may exist for them. Even if the property doesn't necessarily qualify for the register, there would be an outreach effort once this second phase of the assessment is completed. He thanked Ms. Dunne and her team for all the effort that they've expended thus far to get them to this point.

5. Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, Town of Salisbury, Condition Assessment for the Academy Building, Salisbury, CT

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second Ms. Nelson, 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 the application. Staff recommends this application for approval.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

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

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Salisbury requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to perform a conditions assessment of the Academy Building. This is a very important building for the town of Salisbury, and they are anxious to move forward.

The last few grants awarded to Salisbury were centered around the CNE Railway.

At lot of issues with the building have been identified already and it is always a good idea to have a professional architect on the project to confirm and recommend treatments for identified issues.

Ms. Nelson commented it was not a good idea to continue to use the attic for bats. Maybe they could build a bat house on the property.

Ms. Dunne replied she will make the applicants aware. They were waiting for a bat migration before they interrupted the bats.

6. Partners In Preservation Grant, Connecticut Democracy Center, funding to support programming related to the CT Freedom Trail, Statewide, CT

On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second Mr. Elmore 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.

(Y-6, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-1) (Roll call vote) Ms. Burgess was recused.

Applicant: The Connecticut Democracy Center
Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Connecticut Democracy Center was awarded a grant 2 years ago. SHPO is continuing this governorship with the Connecticut Freedom Trail for programming and expanding in other areas. Ms. Sally Whipple and Mr. Bill Levacqua were on the call or any questions or concerns.

Dr. Horowitz stated that he endorsed this proposal and thinks it's important to reflect on the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States. The preservation movement comes out of the Bicentennial moment in 1976 and assume that's the history of the state Historic Preservation Council. This relationship is very much in a legacy spirit, and he is proud of supporting it now.

VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations

A. Unfinished Action Items

B. New Action Items

VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s

1. Local Historic Property Study Report, Old Elm Street Historic District, Madison, CT

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-147b(c): On a motion by Ms. Nelson, second Ms. Acly second, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary for the proposed Old Elm Street

Historic District as presented in the study report transmitted by the Town of Madison on September 23, 2024

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-2, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of Madison has a very strong architectural history. The applicant was very mindful of the property owners in the district, even waiting for properties to have new owners who are supportive of this effort. The Town's Clerk's office still must send out ballots and if two thirds come back in the affirmative, then it will move on to the local district. Ms. Dunne received any comments or questions on the ordinance and boundaries.

Ms. Rhodes agreed with Ms. Nelson's comment on the car dealerships and eroding this neighborhood along Route One. She doesn't feel this is the only option and is not sure it's the strongest one if they really want to stop the dealerships and the commercial convenience stores. It was Ms. Rhodes' opinion that Madison should look at their zoning in that area as well, not just for preservation of the buildings but for preservation of uses. If they want this to remain single family, they need to zone it that way.

Chairman Butkus added, a village district overlay would probably provide them with much more protection than the historic designation.

Ms. Burgess commented she really appreciated the discussion about Native Americans and the diversity of that relationship with European folks. She was a little surprised under farmers and mariners not to see a discussion of enslaved people or anyone of African or Caribbean descent discussed. Along a lot of the coastline of Connecticut there was a lot of trade and commerce. A sentence or an acknowledgment of such folks in and around would be useful here.

VIII. Archaeological Preserves

IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates - Todd Levine

Mr. Kinney gave a brief update on the Norwalk CEPA item from August. The property owner will be meeting with SHPO and the OAG on site, on October 15th to discuss the project moving forward. Mr. Levine will plan to have a full update at November's HPC meeting.

X. Preservation Restrictions

XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney

Mr. Kinney reported that Mr. Butkus' appointment as Chair of the HPC has finally been confirmed by the Governor's office. His appointment will run with his second term, which expires in January of 2028. Congratulations to Paul!

Mr. Kinney is working on additional appointments for new members on the Council. He has some good leads and hopes to be moving forward shortly.

Mr. Kinney is working to create a small working group of SHPO staff and HPC members. He asked for volunteers at the September meeting, but he hasn't heard from anyone yet. This was to accomplish two things: to potentially review the HPC statutory language and to memorialize the working processes between SHPO and HPC.

Earlier in the year, SHPO was very closely tracking and paying attention to the new legislation regarding the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. That legislation was passed during the special session over the summer, and it did take effect yesterday on October 1st. SHPO is now responsive to that new legislation and, I want to thank my environmental review staff that worked really hard to update all the material on the website and create handouts that will help our users, and our constituents guide this new process. It is all is up on our website now.

Finally, we are working with our legal department to create a template for the agreement documents that will memorialize any mitigation that comes out of that new process. A link was added to the chat for review.

XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro

Crandall Museum

1. Ms. Shapiro reported that Canterbury Old Home Day, hosted by the Canterbury Historical Society on 9/29/24, was well-attended and resulted in 233 visitors to the museum, taking a self-guided tour, with guides positioned through the site to answer questions.
2. Staff continues to improve the visitor experience by adding interior maps in locations along the hallway, identifying what parts of the Crandall story are told in what rooms, creating time-line banners and adding special signs, shaped like quills, to denote which areas of text tell the basic story.
Guests could also paint Kindness Stones, with 30 people of all ages painting stones and many leaving those messages in the Peace Garden onsite.
3. The French-authored novel on the Crandall-Harris story, “Blanc Autour” by Wilfrid Lupano and illustrated by Stephane Fert, is about to be released in English titled “Surrounded”. Curator Joan DiMartino wrote the book’s forward and had some editorial input. We are excited to see how the public responds to the story and how we can use the novel to augment our school programs.

Eric Sloane Museum

1. Fall Festival, hosted by the CT Antique Machinery Association (located adjacent to the Sloane Museum) was held on the weekend of September 28/29 and resulted in 3000

visitors to the museums with great sales in the giftshop. Curator Andrew Rowand noted that it was the busiest fall festival he's seen, and that our new road into the parking lot and down the hillside was able to withstand the increased traffic with no problems and plenty of room to spare.

2. Quick reminder about 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. This program is presented in partnership with Trades Up, formerly Touch a Trade, and the State Historic Preservation Office. We would love to have you attend.

Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

1. Ms. Shapiro was happy to report that there is a plan for the cell-block project at New-Gate, and it feels like things are beginning to move forward. Ms. Shapiro will make everyone aware when the project is active, so those of you who are interested can come by and see the work. It will be one of our more interesting projects.
2. Old New-Gate Prison was officially recognized as a site on the CT Freedom Trail on Friday 9/13. A ceremony at the site attracted our state Representative, Tami Zawistowski, and over 30 guests. The site is recognized for being a place of incarceration for Prince Mortimer, a slave incarcerated for life when he was convicted of trying to poison his owner.
3. New-Gate's annual Bat Day, held in conjunction with DEEP, on Sunday, September 15, attracted the biggest attendance at the event thus far, with over 320 visitors! Ms. Shapiro had the opportunity to speak with the DEEP staff who were attending and presenting talks. They just love this event and the collaboration between agencies. Morgan has noted that this September has been busier than usual Septembers, and she is excited to explore that a bit more deeply after the season ends.
4. The Jack-o-lanterns are on display again this year and the museum is busy entertaining guests to the mine to see the lighted display. Attendance is encouraged. There are over 300 lighted, hand-carved jack-o-lanterns on display. Tickets are by reservation, Morgan Bengel, can assist with your tickets.

Henry Whitfield State Museum

Welcome Fest took place on Sunday, September 15, and although official numbers are not out yet, the place was packed. There is a small stage area under a tent with seating which hosted performances including a puppet show and southeast Asian music. Visitors seemed to really enjoy the public art project called the UNITY project, where all are welcome to wrap skeins of yarn around a circle of poles that are labeled with statements about identity. When the project is "complete" you see a beautiful spiderweb of interconnected yarn that shows the connections between human beings. It is very

powerful to both participate, to watch others participate, and to see the project as it develops

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies

XVI. Public Forum

XVII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Dr. Horowitz, this meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Deborah D. Gaston

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Meeting Format TBD***