

HARWINTON HISTORIC DISTRICT & HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, August 16, 2011 – 7:00 pm

Present: Peter Brazaitis, Greg Marshall, Roger Plaskett, Carole Romano

Absent: Jennifer Grady, Bree Gurin

Also attending: Members of the T.A. Hungerford Memorial Museum: Bruce Burnett, David French, Carol Deleppo, Dane Deleppo, Cindy Orefice, Mike Orefice.

Alternate Peter Brazaitis was seated as a regular member. With quorum established, the meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Chair Carole Romano.

T. A. HUNGERFORD MUSEUM

To accommodate our visitors this agenda item was discussed first.

Members of the T.A. Hungerford Museum board were present this evening to discuss the pros and cons of becoming a local historic property. Carole Romano explained it is the Harwinton Historic District's (HDC) mission to protect the architectural history of the buildings under its jurisdiction. The makeup of the two districts consists mostly of architectural styles ranging from the 1700s to the 2000s and that they are not "pure districts" (i.e. like Litchfield). Changes or additions that can be seen from the road must be approved by the Commission. The inside of the structure is not an issue nor is the color. Additions should match the existing structure. HDC approval of any changes must come first before applicant can seek approval from the Zoning or Planning Commissions. Carole explained that the HDC strives to work with the homeowner emphasizing what *CAN* be done rather than what can't, and to make suggestions whenever possible.

Museum members were concerned about their new sign. Roger had checked with Polly Redmond from Zoning prior to tonight's meeting and was told that as long as the new sign matches the original in exact measurement there should be no problem. The Town's sign policy for homeowners may not apply in the case of the museum.

Dr. French asked if grant money would more likely be available to the museum if it was a local historic property. Roger explained that the Town has Certified Local Government status and grant money could be available. However the State's current budget problems may possibly have an effect on the grant program.

Mrs. Deleppo asked how the local historic property designation would affect the Hungerford's neighbors. Carole explained that the museum would be a single, stand-alone property and no one else in the neighborhood would be affected by HDC rules or regulations.

Mr. Deleppo was concerned about the condition of the museum's parking lot and what the procedure would be when repair becomes necessary. Carole explained that landscaping, or in this case, hardscaping (driveway) issues were not under HDC jurisdiction.

Mr. Orefice asked if the historic property designation can ever be removed. The answer was no, that it remains forever.

Mr. Deleppo asked about the addition of solar panels. Roger explained that the HDC cannot place restrictions on a property that wants to "go green" but that the HDC would work with them as to the best placement of such panels. Carole said there is a business in California that makes

solar panels that are less noticeable and that blend in with the style of the building.

Mrs. Deleppo asked about restoring the museum's skylight. Carole explained that would be a project that would not require the board to request a Certificate of Appropriateness and appear before the HDC with blueprints, drawings, etc, because restoring the skylight is an interior project. The Commission used this as an example of how the process works if a certificate was required for the uncovering of the skylight. A public hearing would then be scheduled for the following month and an ad would be placed in the Republican American newspaper. Registered letters are then sent to property owners within 200 feet of the museum. Dr. French said there are no plans of any building alterations at this time. Tinting of the windows to add protection to museum items is acceptable. Replacement of windows is a maintenance issue as long as the style of the windows is similar to what is already being used and would not require a Certificate; however, the HDC would appreciate the Hungerford board meeting with them to discuss the issue.

Carole suggested that the museum members have a discussion at their next meeting as to what direction to take and to contact her or Roger with any questions.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

No applications have been received as of this date.

BY LAW AMMENDMENT REGARDING ABSENTEEISM

In regards to the subject of absenteeism Roger read from the HDC bylaws article XIV

"These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the entire voting membership of the Commission, only after the proposed change has been read and discussed at a previous regular meeting. However, the Bylaws may be changed at any meeting by the unanimous vote of the entire voting membership of the Commission."

Roger made a motion to adopt an amendment which reads as follows, and to vote on it at the next regular scheduled meeting:

"MEMBER ATTENDANCE – In order to ensure that the Commission consistently has a quorum that allows their responsibilities to be discharged in a timely fashion, any member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Commission of the reason for their absence will be subject to review by the Commission which may result in a request for the member's resignation via certified letter."

Motion seconded. All in favor.

MEMBERSHIP

Roger read from the Historic Districts and Historic Properties State Statute, Chapter 97a Part I, sec 7-147c par. 4 that says that at least one member must reside in the district. No new names

have been submitted for consideration. Currently the Commission is in need of one regular member. Roger made a motion to nominate alternate member Peter Brazaitis to become a regular member. Motion seconded by Carole. All in favor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following proposed slate of officers for 2011-2012 was brought before the members:

Chair: Carole Romano
Vice Chair: Peter Brazaitis
Secretary: Bree Gurin

Motion made to accept Carole Romano as Chair. Seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Motion made to accept Peter Brazaitis as Vice Chair. Seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Motion made to accept Bree Gurin as Secretary. Seconded by Carole. All in favor.

SIGNS

The 2011-2012 budget has allotted \$600 for signs. Carole will contact Nutmeg Exhibit Company in Windsor, CT where the foam signs were originally ordered from and get a new quote.

WEB UPDATE

Roger reported 467 hits this month on **harwintonhistory.com**. A resident of Harmony Hill Road will be submitting a childhood story to the website soon.

PARSONAGE UPDATE

Roger reported that the fill from the Town was delivered and some backfilling was done to the wall. The rock is back in place but a bit more backfill work remains to be done.

OTHER

Roger reported that he will be meeting with Nicholas Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist, in October.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Hohensee, Clerk
Historic District & Historic Properties Commission