

HISTORIC DISTRICT & HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Present: Peter Brazaitis, Jennifer Grady, Bree Gurin; Roger Plaskett, Carole Romano

Absent: Greg Marshall

Alternates Peter Brazaitis and Jennifer Grady were seated as regular members; a quorum was established and the meeting was opened at 7: 06 p.m. by Chair Carole Romano

MINUTES

Minutes for June 21, 2011 were approved as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

No applications for Certificates of Appropriateness have been received this month.

40 HARMONY HILL ROAD

A real estate agent for 40 Harmony Hill Road contacted Carole regarding a potential buyer adding an in-law apartment to this home that was built in the 1970s. Carole encouraged that the addition should blend in with the main house and be matching in architectural style with the main house.

Carole asked Roger how many handbooks are left and if it is necessary to do a third printing. Roger said he has 20 first edition booklets; the box of second edition books was given to Carole for distribution to district residents, Town Hall and real estate agents. There is no need to do a third printing at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

HARWINTON HOUSE

The Harwinton House Committee is working on determining the qualifications necessary for an engineer who will evaluate both sites being considered for the rebuilding.

PARSONAGE, SOUTH ROAD

Roger reported that the mason has returned to finish the work. The large stone is back in place. However, crushed stone is needed for backfill to secure it. Roger spoke with John Fredsall recently and the town crew will deliver a yard and a half of crushed stone for drainage to protect the wall from tumbling again.

HUNGERFORD MUSEUM

A formal invitation to our August meeting will be sent to the Hungerford Board. Carole was quite sure that the paperwork used to get their State historic recognition and can be used for the application for designation as a Harwinton Historic Property. The Hungerford will be added to the August meeting agenda and if they are not available for that date we will then schedule them for September.

JONATHAN BRACE HOUSE, 90 HARMONY HILL ROAD

Roger has received three complaints from concerned parties by email regarding the sad situation

of this property. The last communication received by the homeowners was very negative. One thought was to determine if it was possible to have the property "de-commissioned" and removed from the historic district listing. The property is current on its taxes. Getting the Torrington Area Health Department involved was another thought but there is concern that they would probably condemn the property. Possibility of fines was also discussed. No action taken.

SIGNS

The district sign by the firehouse was discussed. This sign is of foam construction and Roger theorizes that it could be the mail delivery truck hitting the sign which caused the damage, not vandalism. There is a wooden sign in storage that needs painting and brackets which can then be hung when ready. The post was cemented in place by the town crew and, therefore, cannot be moved to a different location. Carole suggested looking into a new sign vendor. Jennifer Grady said she would speak to former Commission member Skip Day to determine who the vendor was for the foam signs. Roger added that of all the foam signs in use, this was the only one to receive damage. He also mentioned that it would be nice to have a district sign on the southern entrance to Harmony Hill Road but that sign would either have to be placed on the Jonathan Brace property or on another property whose homeowner might not want it. Bree Gurin made a motion to investigate three bids for a new sign, seconded by Peter Brazaitis. All in favor.

ELECTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

There was discussion regarding the current slate of officers; terms for regular members (5 years) and alternates (3 years); district residency requirements (currently 3 members are within the district and 3 are outside the district). Roger quoted portions of the Commissions' by-laws and the State statutes and recommended tabling the election of officers until the August meeting. He also recommended appointing alternate member Peter Brazaitis, IV as a regular member. This item was also tabled until the August meeting. Also discussed was the topic of absenteeism. Roger will send, via email, the latest files of the Commission by-laws and State Statutes to all members in preparation for the August meeting.

WEBSITE

No new information to report.

With no further business to discuss/ a motion to adjourn was made at 8: 15pm by Bree Gurin All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Hohensee, Clerk
Historic District and Historic Properties Commission