

**HISTORIC DISTRICT &
HISTORIC PROPERTY
COMMISSION**

Jonathan Foltz, Chairman
Colleen Fawcett
Helen Whitten
Matthew Kehoe
Kevin Quinlan
Alternates
Harriet "Scotty" Taylor
Allison Sanders



**TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897**

Tuesday Feb 12, 2013 Meeting Agenda Old Town Hall 7:30PM

I. Chairman Foltz called the meeting to order at 7:40PM –

In attendance were: Commissioners Foltz, Quinlan, Fawcett, Kehoe and Whitten.

Guest and prospective commissioner Peter Gaboriault was also in attendance.

II. Dec 2012 meeting minutes were amended and approved. (Jan meeting was cancelled)

III. Ongoing Business:

- A. Helen Whitten has been approved and sworn in as regular member to replace Janet Foster. Allison Sanders has been approved by DTC and is awaiting final approval by BOS, she will be filling Helen Whitten's alternate seat. Peter Gaboriault is in the process, Jonathan will follow-up with RTC.
- B. COA – Commissioners reviewed COA on replacement of roofing shingles on the Foltz residence in HD 2 –Commissioner Quinlan made a motion to approved the COA, Fawcett seconded motion, all were in favor of the replacement of roofing shingles, which will match the style of the architectural shingles that were used on the Comstock Barns. Foltz abstained due to conflict of interest.
- C. Demolition Requests – there were no demolition requests to review.
- D. Informational materials – Commissioner Fawcett will pull together any materials that we have and update the shortened informational brochure for review.
- E. Historic District News/Updates –
 - HD 2- Another grant is being sought from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation by the Congregational Church to continue restoration of the

Comstock Barns. The matching portion of the grant has already been raised. Commissioner Quinlan and Foltz are involved with this project and therefore cannot write a letter of support due to conflict of interest. Commissioner Fawcett, Kehoe and Whitten discussed whether or not to support the application of the Wilton Congregational Church for funds to assist in the final steps in the restoration of the two former agricultural barns on their property at 77 Ridgefield Road, Wilton – known as the Comstock Barns. The two, red, gable-roofed Comstock barns, connected only on the outside, are set close to the road at an important “crossroads” intersection, which was the center point for the first area of commerce in early Wilton. The buildings, built by members of the Comstock family, housed animals and farming equipment for several generations. The first two phases of the Church’s restoration project consisted of firming the foundations and then replacing interior supports as well as the roof. The Commission enthusiastically supports their plans for the last phase, which includes replacing siding, trim and windows to finally make the structure weather-tight. It was decided that Commissioner Fawcett would write a letter of support for the grant to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

- HD 6 – Commissioners Kehoe and Fawcett reported on the many interesting events and classes at the Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Arts Center, including the current exhibit on WWII, and room dedicated to a permanent collection of Georgetown History.

F. Update/Revision of Ordinance – The Commission discussed the major revision question, which was whether or not to change the 50-year rule of reviewing demolition requests. By ordinance the Commission reviews all demolition requests on structures that are more than 50 years old, which means that many mid-century homes, many of which don’t have historical and architectural significance, have to be reviewed for potential delay of demolition. The Commission discussed and decided that there are not so many to review that the rule is cumbersome at this time. However, this question can be revisited if this becomes too cumbersome either for the commission or for the building department, which notifies the commission of the demolition requests.

IV. New Business

- A. Kevin shared with the Commission a copy of the Handbook for Historic District Commissions and Historic Property Commissions in CT given to him by long-term Commission member and Town Historian Carol Russell; Commissioner Kehoe kindly offered to make copies for all commissioners.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM in Historic District 6 Georgetown Neighborhood.**

Next meetings are April 8, May 14 and June 11, 2013.