

**HISTORIC DISTRICT &
HISTORIC PROPERTY
COMMISSION**

Jonathan Foltz, Chair
Kevin Quinlan, Vice Chair
Colleen Fawcett, Clerk
Matthew Kehoe
Allison Sanders
Helen Whitten
Alternates
Peter Gaboriault
Al Stauderman



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

**Tuesday September 9, 2014- Meeting Agenda
7:30PM Old Town Hall**

- I. Chairman Foltz called the meeting to order at 7:36 and seated Alternate Commissioner Stauderman. Present were Commissioners Foltz, Kehoe, Sanders, Stauderman and Fawcett. A motion was made by Kehoe to accept June meeting minutes as written, seconded by Stauderman and passed unanimously.
- II. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Demolition notifications
 - 68 Forest, 211 Linden, 105 Silver Spring (stable) – there were no objections found for any of these demolition requests. Since the agenda was printed, another demolition request was made for 71 Hurlbutt Street. There was no objection found for this structure that was built in 1950.
 - There were no Certificate of Appropriate applications to review.
 - Chairman Foltz confirmed through town hall that an antique barn on Lovers Lane had been relocated on the same property and had not been demolished.
 - B. Commissioners determine best day/time to try to visit a site visit of 44 Westport Rd, anticipating a possible future demolition notice.
 - C. Website updates – FAQ, Demolition Ordinance. Commissioner Kehoe will bring a large monitor and computer to our October meeting so that we can view the website together and determine best place to add the new Frequently Asked Questions document, and Demolition Ordinance so that it's easy for the public to find.
 - D. Commissioner Sanders will coordinate printing of the FAQ document with Commissioner Whitten. Discussion was held on whether or not to send information out via mail, or post on-line and provide a press release indicating where information can be found. Without a budget to cover mailing costs, we decided to submit a press release directing the public to the information on the town website. Commissioner Sanders offered to prepare the press release once the website is updated. Additionally Sanders reported that the Wilton Historical Society has a link now on their website to

our Commissions page/s on the town website. Should someone be looking for a historic property plaque for their home they can easily access other information pertinent to local and nationally designated historic properties.

- E. Update on Cemetery preservation – Commissioner Stauderman reported that Comstock Cemetery clean up has started under the direction of the DAR and as an Eagle Scout project. Additionally there is a new committee member, Pam Brown, who is in charge of the Congregational Church Cemeteries (Hillside and Sharp Hill). The group would still like to determine a standard of care for our cemeteries and is expecting a verdict from the Historical Society as to whether or not their committee will become a standing committee of the Historical Society.

III. New Business

- A. CL&P tree trimming along roadside – impact on streetscape in historic districts, homeowner rights. There has been some information released in the papers about property owner rights when it comes to trimming or removing trees along the roadside. The tree warden is a good resource and property owners have some say in removal of trees. Since none of the commissioners were well informed on this topic, Commissioner Sanders will look for information so that we can include in our next meeting minutes as it related to streetscapes in Historic Districts and Historic Properties.
- B. Freedom of Information Act workshop information – Foltz and Fawcett updated the commissioners of the workshop that was very informative. Some of the pertinent information included: All business of the commission is open to the public, meeting agendas must be posted 24 hours in advance, and drafts of minutes are to be posted within 7 calendar days. If a demolition notification comes into the commission and a determination needs to be made prior to our next scheduled meeting, we can call a special meeting to discuss.
- C. Other
 - Given the historical significance of the Cannondale area, past interest in neighbors for the area to become a historic district, a significant amount of land in the area on the market, and the Economic Development Commissions identification of that area as important, commissioners were interested in having a conversation with a member/s of the Economic Development commission regarding Cannondale. Chairman Foltz will reach out to the Economic Development Commission and invite to a future meeting.
 - 105 Old Belden Hill Road is currently listed on the market with a rendering of a structure that doesn't currently exist on site. Currently the property holds an 1809 colonial home that appears to be slated for demolition, although we have not been notified of demolition. A question came up regarding the demolition notification timing/process – can a developer who has an intent to demolish a structure identify that intent to demolish earlier in the building department building process, giving the commission more time to find avenues to save historically significant structures or parts thereof. Commissioners decided to invite a staff member from either the building department or the town planner to help with that question at a future

meeting.

- A citizen expressed concern about the newly paved and painted lines in the Congregational Church parking lot and asked if our commission had any jurisdiction. Commissioner Foltz reported that at the time of the Church renovation the Church spoke at length with the Commission regarding materials, parking, and options for delineation of spaces. Commissioner Foltz will ask Commission Quinlan to review records and write a letter to the Church if it is determined that a COA was required for the work done recently in the parking lot.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53PM.

Colleen Fawcett, Clerk

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 (NOT OCT 14) 7:30 PM OTH.

Next meetings - mark your calendars: November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9