

**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 June 10, 2014- Meeting Minutes

7:30PM Fawcett residence

- I. Calling of meeting to order and minutes – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Foltz at 7:47PM, present were Commissioners Whitten, Sanders, Fawcett, and alternate member Stauderman. Commissioner Sanders made a motion to approve minutes as written, Whitten seconded, all were in favor.
- II. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Demolition and COA requests – There were none
 - B. 44 Westport Road – potential development of one acre parcel with historic home and barn that would be slated for demolition. A public hearing was opened Monday, June 9th of which Commissioner Stauderman attended. He reported that many people spoke passionately against the development outlining many concerns, no one spoke in favor of the development. Traffic and safety concerns highlighted by many of the speakers. Also noted was the state law regarding affordable housing which trumps local P&Z authority on developments that include affordable housing options, the law favors developers who include affordable housing in their plans. The WHDHP Commission discussed the historic significance of the home, although not in a historic district, nor a historically designated property, the home is included in the most recent architectural survey of historically significant homes and is recognized by citizens as a historically significant home. Given the architectural and historical significance of the home the Commission is prepared to discuss a demolition delay request through the demolition stay ordinance (provides for a 90 day delay to give some time to find a way to preserve part of or the entire structure/s) should a demolition permit be requested.
 - C. Update on Cemetery preservation – Commissioner Stauderman has written a letter to the Historical Society requesting that the newly formed *Friends of Wilton Historic Cemeteries Committee* be designated an official committee of the Wilton Historical Society and is waiting a response. He then handed out the website materials outlining

the cemeteries in Wilton. Chairman Foltz suggested Commissioner Stauderman contact Pam Brown of the Wilton Congregational Church, who manages the Congregational Cemetery. Some have offered to help with the work, Commissioner Stauderman would like to determine standards of care prior to work beginning.

- D. Literature/Information for homeowners in Historic Districts – Commissioner Sanders provided copies of the new booklet that includes frequently asked questions which is ready to be posted on the town website and hard copies will be given to real estate professionals. Commissioners expressed thanks to Commissioner Sanders for the excellent work on this project. The complete (long version) of the information booklet was also shared, much of which is included on the town website. It was suggested that the booklet be put on the town website as a complete booklet in PDF form, if not there in that form already. Commissioners will review the WHDHP portion of the town website prior to our July meeting to consider any changes or additions. Commissioner Fawcett will facilitate the updating of the website once all updated materials are determined at our next meeting.
- E. Demolition requests on website / historical building materials – Commissioner Fawcett suggested that the demolition stay ordinance be pulled out and given a separate tab on the town website so that it's easier for the public to find. She also suggested that the Commission find a way to link any current demolition delays to the website in a place that can be simply updated. This will be discussed in further detail at the July meeting.

III. New Business

- A. CL&P tree trimming along roadside – impact on streetscape in historic districts – Commissioner Sanders reported that CL&P has created a new protocol on tree trimming that calls for a substantial approach to trimming and/or removing trees around wires. The CT trust for Historic Preservation has put out information regarding preserving street trees. Several groups are writing letters to CL&P with constructive suggestions on trimming in ways that will preserve the streetscape and significant trees. The WHDHP Commission will also draft a letter.
- B. Other – There is a municipal leadership training offered on June 25 which will outline Freedom of Information Act – town Commissions are invited to attend. Commissioners Foltz and Fawcett will be attending.
- C. Summer schedule: Next meeting is July 8th at 7:30PM at OTH.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.

Colleen Fawcett, Clerk