

**HISTORIC DISTRICT &
HISTORIC PROPERTY
COMMISSION**

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



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

**Tuesday October 28, 2014- Meeting Minutes
7:30PM Old Town Hall**

I. Calling of meeting to order at 7:36 by Chairman Foltz.

In attendance were Commissioners Foltz, Quinlan, Whitten, Sanders, Stauderman, Gaboriault, Lenihan, and Fawcett. Two changes were made to the minutes – change in today’s meeting date, and adding “Local Media” to Item D reflecting that press release will go to the Local Media outlets when our web pages are updated. Quinlan made a motion to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Foltz – all approved. Chairman Foltz welcomed new commission member Carol Lenihan to the meeting and suggested that we prepare packets of information for incoming commissioners to orient to our processes.

II. Ongoing Business:

A. Current demolition and COA requests – There were none

B. Expected demolition requests – what can / should the commission do?

After discussion it was determined that we can only watch and wait, visit the site if approved by the owner to determine whether or not a demolition delay may be in order, and actively look for an alternative to demolition of a historically significant structure. Salvaging materials from antique homes isn’t preserving the structure as a whole and may not be worth the energy of the commission, as it doesn’t result in saving a historic home. If the Commission is able to anticipate or be notified of eventual demolition permits, we can facilitate communication and cooperation between owner, developer, and potential buyer in a way that might save the historic structure. We can not prevent demolition of the structure; we can only delay it by 90 days to give time for an alternative to demolition. A suggestion was made to research other towns that might have stronger mechanisms in place for saving historic homes.

C. Cannondale – preservation possibilities if developed –

After discussion it was determined that the commission recognized the value of this historic area and encourages the appropriate town departments and boards to determine a plan for the area that will preserve some of the historic features and structures. Several parcels of land with historic structures are currently for sale. Zoning regulations ultimately guide the potential development of that area. The Commission had previously completed a study to

make a portion of this area a Historic District, but it failed. Our Commission has no authority in the Cannondale area, beyond recommending a 90-day demolition delay, if appropriate, once a demolition permit is sought.

D. Website review – placement of FAQ and Demolition Ordinance

- Print copies of FAQ and distribute to owners? Others? – This was tabled for the next meeting that Commissioner Kehoe is able to attend.

E. Congregational Church Parking Lot update –

A letter from our Commission was sent to the Church reminding of when a Certificate of Appropriateness is necessary. We received a response and offer to attend our meeting for an update on the parking lot work done, including the painting the stripes. The letter outlined the project that included re-paving and re-striping – using the same materials. In the future, the Church will contact the Commission when COA's are needed. In this case a COA was not needed.

Cemetery Preservation update –

Commission Stauderman reported on the Friends of Wilton Cemeteries progress including the cleaning of Comstock Cemetery by a young man earning his eagle scout under the direction of the DAR. There continues to be a request with the Historic Society in taking the committee under their auspices. A recommendation was made to seek potential sponsorships by a local business that might have interest in preserving one of the cemeteries. Bald Hill Cemetery is a nice example of how cemeteries should be cared for. A suggestion was made to explore whether or not the state has any grant programs to support cleaning and maintaining historic cemeteries, like the Barn Grants program. There are 12 Wilton cemeteries in various states of preservation/condition.

III. New Business

A. New commission appointments, positions and terms

- Kevin Quinlan was nominated as Chair, approved unanimously
- Colleen Fawcett was nominated as Vice Chair, approved unanimously
- Helen Whitten was nominated as Clerk, approved unanimously

Commissioners thanked Chairman Foltz for his leadership and service.

Next meetings - mark your calendars:

November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9