

**HISTORIC DISTRICT &
HISTORIC PROPERTY
COMMISSION**

Janet Foster, Chairman
Jonathan Foltz
Kevin Quinlan
Carol Russell
Marian Wulffleff
Alternates
Jerre Dawson
Tierney O'Hearn
Harriet "Scotty" Taylor



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

**MINUTES
January 12, 2009
OLD TOWN HALL**

I. Call to Order:

- a. Outgoing Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.
- b. Attendance: Russell, Foster, Foltz, Quinlan, Wulffleff, Dawson, O'Hearn, Taylor.
- c. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER were corrected as noted below in red and then accepted as corrected, Quinlan moved, Wulffleff seconded.
Correction to November Minutes in paragraph related to CCT workshop:
CCT workshop- Chairman Russell attended the workshop on October 29th. She found that there was little devoted to history issues but she came away with the sense that it was worth pursuing the local government certification. It was learned that a municipality cannot put signs etc. in a historic district that are deemed not appropriate by the local Historic District Commission. A Historic District Commission has the ability to comment to the municipality regarding the Historical appropriateness or inappropriateness of such signs, etc. and the municipality must abide by the Historic District Commission's decision.

II. Election of Officers:

- a. Proposed by Outgoing Chairman Carol Russell and elected unanimously by their fellow Commissioners were the following new slate of Officers: Chairman: Janet Foster, Vice-Chairman: Marian Wulffleff, and Clerk: Kevin Quinlan.
- b. Note: Carol Russell has also notified Mary Dunne at the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism of our new slate of Officers.

III. Old Business:

- A. Ambler Farm Historic Property update:** No notification has been received to date from the Board of Selectmen as to when/if Amble Farm proposed HD will be placed on B.O.S. agenda for vote. Note: There is no timeline constraint to this last step in the process (vote by Town); Note: The WHDHPC has addressed all of the B.O.S.'s questions back in October 2008.
- B. Cannondale Historic District update:** Carol Russell updated the Commissioners on her most recent communications with Mary Dunne at the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism;

Carol informed that at the 1/5/09 B.O.S. Meeting it became evident that by some clerical/communication error, the Selectmen never received their hard copies of the Cannondale HD Report; they now have the report.

Carol Russell noted three corrections to the report:

1. Page 3: The number of properties should read "twenty-one" rather than "thirty-two".
2. Page 7: The "Cannon Road, 27" property should be removed from the matrix.
3. Page 24: map No. 34, Lot #1 should be removed from the list.
4. (NOTE: The most recent map remains correct.)
5. Legal Notices of Public Hearing will be posted in the Bulletin newspaper on January 22nd and again January 29th.
6. The B.O.S. Public Hearing is set for February 2nd.
7. Janet Foster will reserve the Town Hall attic conference room for our February Commission Meeting to follow the Public Hearing.

C. Projects assignment update:

- a. **Tax Relief for building owners in historic districts & properties:** Tierney O'Hearn briefed the Commission on his research: **Federal** rehabilitation tax credit of 20% for certified income-producing buildings only; the building must also be on the National Register of Historic Places. Note: Nationally, 600 old structures are demolished PER DAY. **Connecticut** offers 30% tax credit: Property must be in a distressed area, so it is not necessarily targeted to the owners of private homes. Carol Russell updated the Commissioners on her most recent communications with Mary Dunne at the CT Commission on Culture & Tourism;
- b. **State Register listing:** Jerre Dawson will travel to Hartford in the spring. She will research such things as the fact that Wilton has buildings on the State Register and we don't know how they got there (i.e. the Gregory House on Belden Hill Road that is on the State Register even though it is not on the National or Town Registers).
- c. **Local government certification:** Jonathan Foltz has reported once before and will report further after conducting more research. As reported earlier, Wilton

is not a “certified” town government. The First Selectman would have to apply to the State Commission on Culture & Tourism for matching funds; The SConC&T is able to fund items like signage for Historic Districts from a State budget line item.

IV. New Business:

A. Demolitions: (none currently for discussion).

B. 2009 calendar of WHD&HPC Meetings: February 2nd, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th, (no meetings in July and August), September 14th, October 12th, November 9th, and December 14th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10, moved Foster, seconded Quinlan.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Quinlan
Clerk

The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2009 following the Board of Selectmen Public Hearing on Cannondale HD#8. The Public Hearing begins at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room B.