

Chaplin Historic District Commission

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

These unapproved Historic District Commission meeting minutes are forwarded to the Chaplin Town Clerk in a draft format. These minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Commission. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, voted upon and noted in the meeting minutes.

A. Business Meeting

1. Call to order, roll call and seating of alternates Chairman P. Peifer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present were regular members W. Church, J. Givens, C. Smith, D. Cox and alternates L. Ricklin and C. Lindquist. As all regular member were present; no alternate members were seated, absent alternate P. Siege.

2. Approval of October 1, 2019 Minutes J. Givens moved to approve the October 1, 2019 minutes, W. Church seconded. Peifer, Givens and Church yes, Cox and Smith abstained. Motion approved.

3. New Business

a. Approve PY 2020-2021 Budget. P. Peifer presented a 2020-2021 budget with same bottom line as present year's budget of \$741.00. C. Smith moved to approve budget as presented, J. Givens seconded, approved unanimously.

b. Members up for reappointment in 2020. Regular member D. Cox and alternate member L. Ricklin terms end 8/31/ 2020; they would need to be reappointed by the Board of Selectmen and sworn in if they want to continue in those positions.

c. Discuss if painting a brick exterior is a material change. P. Peifer read a portion of an article from Preservation CT News magazine about a Fairfield resident who wanted to paint the brick exterior in the Historic District. The Fairfield HDC determined it was a material change because it changed the texture of the building and could compromise the performance of the antique bricks. J. Givens said she has first-hand experience of the damage painting had done to bricks. State of CT prohibits regulation of paint colors in historic districts. Whether to allow painting of unpainted exteriors is left to local HDCs. Consensus was to discourage painting of bricks but not change regulations.

4. Correspondence P. Peifer noted receiving Preservation CT News magazine.

January 22, 2020 P. Peifer received an email from Preston Caisse, student at CH Barrows STEM Academy who did a project on restoring the W. Ross Library, he wanted to present his findings to the Commission. Mr. Peifer replied January 23, 2020 informing Master Caisse that the HDC only oversaw changes to the historic character of structures in the District and did not own or maintain structures. He referred Master Caisse to First Selectman Rose and the Board of Selectmen's next meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Historic District brochure Mr. Peifer had emailed Mr. Philbrick about any progress on reprinting the brochure. At the time there was no progress. Members asked if it would be appropriate to ask the Philbricks if the HDC could photocopy the brochure and create 25 copies. Mr. Church volunteered to ask the Philbricks about it.

6. Pro re nata

Mr. Peifer met with new building inspector Joe Smith and brought him a list of the properties in the District with the owners' contact information and explained the permit process. He also spoke to First Selectman Rose about the deterioration of the Ross Library. Mr. Rose said they inspected the building regularly and were looking to hire a carpenter to do some repairs.

L. Ricklin said the Benjamin Chaplin corner cupboard was removed from Ross Library and brought to Andy Belisle for restoration. The Selectmen were thinking it should be in the Museum and the Library Board would like it in the new library, if only for a period of time. C. Smith inquired if the Museum building is to be moved would it need HDC approval, P. Peifer said yes, that would be considered a demolition. Members agreed that more factual and substantive information would be needed about the impact to the District if moving the Museum was proposed.

L. Ricklin said Mr. Rose mentioned the Town was getting a percolation test done at the Ross Library with the idea of possibly selling the building. A fallen branch recently broke a window on the turret which is now boarded up and there is deterioration to the turret railing.

Mrs. Ricklin said she and Mr. Church are involved in the Chaplin bicentennial committee and they are working on redesigning the Town seal and updating histories about the various sections of Town with a possible newsletter to showcase the original districts and schools. She is working with Dave Stone of the Chaplin DPW and Helen Weingart to establish a town arboretum in conjunction with Sustainable CT based at Eastern University. The trees would be planted at Garrison Park. She asked if the HDC would like to get involved in replacing two trees at the monument at the southern end of Chaplin St. as a separate project costing around \$300. J. Givens noted a lot of older dying trees in the Historic District but said the planting of two trees at the monument would be better coming through the Town. Mr. Church thought that was a swell idea.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by J. Givens, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Peifer- Recording clerk- HDC