

From: Lois Laczko May 14, 2009 9:20:26 AM
Subject: Historic District Commission Minutes 03/05/2009 ADOPTED
To: SimsburyCT_HistComm
Cc:

ADOPTED

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
March 5, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman, called the Historic District Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members were also present: Kenneth Feder, Diane Mead, Evan Woollacott and David Freitas. Also in attendance were Lynn Charest, Zoning Enforcement Officer and other interested parties.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

None were needed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 5, 2009 and February 19, 2009

Ken Feder made a motion to approve the February 5, 2009 and February 19, 2009 minutes as written. Diane Mead seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. Discussion by Mary Dunne, Certified Local Government Grants Coordinator, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, on various grant programs available to Historic District Commissions.

Mary Dunne stated that she is here tonight to discuss funding that Simsbury is eligible for, which would be helpful to this Commission. She stated that this Commission was established under Connecticut General Statute, Section 7-147. This Commission is all about preservation.

Ms. Dunne discussed the Commission's responsibilities. She stated that each member of the Commission needs to be reappointed each year. The basic responsibilities for this Commission are: establishing rules and procedures; making sure public meetings are conducted in accordance with

the Freedom of Information Act; submit an annual report; and provide guidance to property owners.

Ms. Dunne discussed the following with the Commission: demolition permits; reviewing parking as it relates to the district; reviewing an application; timing for public hearings and action taken; and what is exempt from the Commission's review.

Regarding funding, Ms. Dunne stated that Simsbury is a Certified Local Government (CLG), which benefits this Commission and the Town regarding preservation planning. The CLG is set up by the Federal Government as a way for all local Municipalities to more actively participate in historic preservation. As a CLG, Simsbury is eligible for two grants. The first grant is the Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, which is Federal money. The Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service allocates funding for all 50 States; each State takes 10% of this funding and distributes it to all of the CLGs in the form of grants. The second grant is a Supplemental CLG grant, which is money from the Community Investment Act. This grant benefits historic preservation, open space preservation, affordable housing and farmland.

Ms. Dunne stated that one of the Historic District Commission's primary responsibilities is maintaining a system for the survey and inventory for historic properties. This inventory should be continually updated.

Regarding the Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, Ms. Dunne stated that this grant is reimbursable. Although this is a smaller grant, up to \$2,800, it does not require a match. She stated that this grant is used by Commissions to do a variety of things: to put the COA process up on their Town's website; seminars; publications specific to their Town; color brochures in order to build community awareness; etc.

Regarding the Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant (SCLG), Ms. Dunne stated that this grant is \$30,000 and is also reimbursable. This grant does require non-State matching funds, unless it is for the historic resources inventory. She stated that this applies to Town-owned buildings only.

Regarding Preserve America Communities, Ms. Dunne stated that there is Federal funding available. She stated that this is basically CLG at a national level. This is to promote the Town's historic resources, especially for the benefit of economic vitality of the community. She stated that Simsbury can apply for this grant because they are a Preserve America Community. She gave several examples regarding Preserve America projects, including Simsbury for their heritage marketing grant.

The Commission discussed having a historical resource survey done in Town.

Ms. Dunne stated that the survey would cost approximately \$100 per house. Mr. Feder asked that Ms. Dunne provide them with names of people who are qualified to do this survey.

Regarding scenic road signs, Lynn Charest stated East Weatogue Street is a scenic road in Town, along with a few other roads that are designated scenic roads. She stated that she has been researching signs and trying to find examples of signage for Town-owned streets. Ms. Dunne was not sure if there were standards for local roads. She stated that the hardware for the signage would not be funded, although the Town could receive funding for research and design. An application will need to be in by March 15th in order to get it processed for this fiscal year's funding, although it could be sent in anytime for the next fiscal year. She stated that the application itself is not hard to write, although the supporting Town documents that take time to gather.

The Historic District Commission members thanked Ms. Dunne for her time and for her presentation.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Scenic Road Signage

Lynn Charest stated that the Commission needs to think about design ideas. She stated that the idea is to have additional signage on the Historic District signs.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERTY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Discussion of Historic Houses and Styles Seminar

Ms. Charest stated that a seminar will be held in Hartford regarding historic preservation for real estate agents, although all are invited. She stated that she will be attending this seminar. Registration forms were handed out to the Commission members.

Discussion of status of members as per Historic District Commission Ordinance

Lynn Charest stated that there is a difference in code between what is in the Town Code Book and what is in the Historic Book. She stated that the Town Attorney stated that the Commission should be guided by the Town Code Book, which states that this Commission should have 2 regular members that are district residents, and 1 alternate member. Lynn Charest stated that they will need to request, through the Board of Selectmen, to switch one member, non-resident with an alternate member, who is a district resident.

At the next meeting, funding for next year will be discussed as well as their spending regarding signage.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ken Feder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. David Freitas seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman