

From: Lois Laczko June 9, 2009 4:18:27 PM  
Subject: Historic District Commission Minutes 05/07/2009 ADOPTED  
To: SimsburyCT\_HistComm  
Cc:

ADOPTED

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 7, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members and alternates were also present: Kenneth Feder, Dianne Mead, David Freitas, J. Paul Lanza, and Marc Lubetkin. Also in attendance was Lynn Charest, Zoning Enforcement Officer.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

None were needed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 2, 2009 regular meeting

Mr. Lubetkin moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feder and passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Scenic Road Signage

Chairman Woollacott said that Joyce Howard stated that at some point in time there was a scenic road sign at the corner of Terry's Plain Road and Route 315. She said that the sign was green and white on a pole and just said scenic road. No one on the commission recalled this sign. Ms. Howard was going to look into it.

Mr. Lanza explained the placement of the signs to the Commission members and clarified the sign design. He said that the quote was revised to five signs and the cost is \$260.00 each for five (5) signs. He said that we have to supply the paint and hardware and he can install the signs.

Ms. Charest told the commission that she has spoke with Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, about her idea of placing something on the top of signs that are designated scenic, but are not in the historic district. Mr. Roy said that some of the signs you cannot, but you could possibly then place something lower on the pole. Mr. Lubetkin discussed a "no-wood" type of product for the signs that are located outside of the historic district. Ms. Charest said that the Department of Public Works can make aluminum signs. The commission members discussed what would be placed on the metal post and what would be the standard style for a scenic road designation sign (outside of the historic district).

Mr. Lanza made a motion that the Historic District Commission accepts the proposal for the five wooden signs to be placed on top of the five existing historic district signs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lubetkin and passed unanimously.

The commission members discussed the possibility of holding an open house (meet and greet) at Rosedale Farms. Mr. Lubetkin suggested someone doing a small presentation on what this commission has been doing. The possibility of having some wine and cheese made available was also mentioned. Mr. Lubetkin suggested that this could be called an "East Weatogue Historic District Open House". The commission will have approximately \$350.00 left in their current budget after the five signs are paid for. The open house would have to be held prior to the end of June, or the money is gone. Mr. Lubetkin feels that they should go forward with this idea as this would build positive good will amongst their historic district neighbors.

Mr. Lubetkin made the proposal that Ms. Charest find a date that this commission could hold an open house at Epstein's Farm (Rosedale) for wine and cheese for the East Weatogue Historic District with a five minute presentation on the status of the district. If it cannot be held at Rosedale Farm, find another

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option. Ms. Mead said that a flyer might work as a way to communicate the event to people who live in the historic district. She also asked what the liability restrictions are as to serving wine.

Mr. Lubetkin made a motion that the Historic District Commission holds an East Weatogue Historic District Open House with a presentation on the status of the East Weatogue Historic District. Post cards or flyers will be

sent to each resident of this district inviting them to the event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Feder and passed unanimously.

Diane Mead mentioned the possibility of holding this event at Anita's barn saying that possibly, as a good neighbor; the commission could buy Rosedale's wine and serve it. It was brought up that even though it would be a private party, it would be held by a town body (the commission).

b. Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant (SCLG)

Ms. Charest gave each member a paper regarding the process of finding a qualified consultant, and who is on the list that is already qualified. She would like to also add to this list a person that Hiram Peck is asking to be considered. The name is Noré Winter who works for Winter and Company who has been contracted to do the Charrette for the Simsbury Center Zone. The Charrette will happen in September.

Ms. Charest said that this commission will have to decide on what is the scope of work they would like the consultant to do. The commission discussed an historic inventory that involves digital photographs, written histories, and putting this information on line. Roughly, it would cost \$100.00 per house (300 houses - \$30,000). There are about 320 houses on the list that appear to be more than 100 years old.

Ms. Mead asked if there is a format for an inventory that has been done by other towns. Ms. Charest said that she would check with Mary Dunne. Mr. Feder said that in the scope of work, at the very least, they should have history, data base, 100 houses, digital photos and on line. Also, to have the other inventories organized.

Mr. Lubetkin asked if they should run the oldest houses, or should they run this to see if there are neighborhoods with the oldest house and target the neighborhoods. Ms. Mead said that they should start with the oldest residential home, as the idea is to catalogue the old treasures. Ms. Charest said that barns are also allowed to be in the resource inventory. The commission decided not to do a barn inventory at this time.

c. Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant (HPEG)

Ms. Charest said that the HPEG (Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant) is a grant that is available for up to \$2,800. The commission can also apply for this grant.

Ms. Mead asked if this grant can be added to what they are already getting. Mr. Lubetkin suggested adding the GIS layered map to the historic inventory project. The funding could be used to build the layered maps.

Mr. Feder moved that this commission apply for the HPEG grant to support a GIS map that will tie in with the historic inventory that they are producing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lubetkin and passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Ms. Charest said that May is historic preservation month. She said that the town is now rotating displays in the display window. She asked if this commission had any interest with wanting to put in a display on historic preservation. Ms. Woollacott said that letting people know that they are a Certified Local Government is important.

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Mr. Feder made a motion that this commission officially acknowledges, with gratitude, the spectacular work that Lynn Charest did in putting together the grant proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lubetkin. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mead and passed unanimously.

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Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman