

From: Lois Laczko November 8, 2010 10:45:26 AM
Subject: Historic District Commission Minutes 09/02/2010 ADOPTED
To: SimsburyCT_HistComm
Cc:

ADOPTED

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
September 2, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman, called the Historic District Commission to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Simsbury Town Hall. The following members were also present: Evan Woollacott, Marc Lubetkin, Diane Mead, David Freitas, Kenneth Feder, and Paul Lanza. 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 March 4, 2010 and May 27, 2010

Mr. Woollacott made a motion to approve the March 4, 2010 minutes as written. Dr. Feder seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Woollacott made a motion to approve the May 27, 2010 minutes as written. Dr. Feder seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Lanza made a motion that the current officers remain the same. Mr. Freitas seconded the motion, which was approved.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant-GIS Map Review and Approval

Ms. Charest stated that the GIS map was created with Lucas's interaction. She is hopeful that people will be able to get the Assessor's information

as well as the inventory information that Lucas has been working on when someone clicks on a parcel. She stated that if the inventory information is in a pdf format, it could be linked in.

Mr. Lubetkin stated that although this is a nice map, he does not believe it is worth the price. He does not believe the Commission got what they asked for. He stated that this Commission described in their original strategic vision that they wanted a Google Earth environment where all of the inventories would be coordinated into a single site. Ms. Charest stated that this is a map layer that will be a part of the Town mapping. The Town has contracted with this GIS company to put the Town Assessor's map and data onto the website. She does not believe that there is a Google Earth link from the Town's website. She stated that she would look into this with the IT Department.

Ms. Mead questioned what was contracted for and if this was the first step of the process. Ms. Charest read the narrative for the grant to the Commission members.

In response to a question from Ms. Mead regarding the timeline, Ms. Charest stated that the grant, with the final report, needs to be submitted by the end of September.

Dr. Feder questioned if people were notified that their property is eligible for the National Historic Registry. He suggested sending a letter to each homeowner. Mr. Lubetkin stated that this Commission also needs to communicate with the Building Department to let them know that those identified locations are of even more high alert.

Mr. Lubetkin asked that the representative of the GIS company come to a future Historic District Commission meeting to discuss what they are doing and what direction this Commission is interested in going. The Commission agreed.

Scenic Road signage status

Ms. Charest stated that Mr. Lanza has put up the rest of the scenic road signs. The Commission members thanked Mr. Lanza for all of his work with this project.

Mr. Lubetkin stated that there is a sign on East Weatogue Street that is hidden behind vegetation. Ms. Charest stated that she would look in to this matter.

Chairman Woollacott stated that the scenic road sign on the corner of East Weatogue and Terry's Plain Road still needs to be put up; there is

currently no sign there.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Chairman Woollacott suggested that a letter be sent out to remind people in the Historic District that off-site signs are not allowed.

Ms. Charest stated that the Town can now apply for another grant since the other grants have been received. Mr. Lubetkin suggested that prior to applying for another grant, this Commission should have a discussion regarding how the last two grants went, what went well and what did not go well. Dr. Feder stated that he feels better communication is needed.

Mr. Lubetkin stated that he was involved in a meeting, along with Main Street Partnership, to discuss leveraging resources among the other groups in Town. Since Main Street was already doing this, Ms. Nielson suggested doing this together. Mr. Lubetkin stated that Ms. Nielson was supposed to be putting an event together in September, although he has not heard anything from her since that meeting in May. He suggested Chairman Woollacott get in contact with Main Street regarding this matter.

Mr. Lubetkin also suggested getting the Heritage Alliance involved in the next grant.

Dr. Feder made a motion that the Historic District Commission explore the possibility of applying for another grant and expanding the historic resource inventory. Mr. Woollacott seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lubetkin stated that a presentation entitled New Money From Old Places will be held. He encouraged the other Commission members to attend. He stated that the State does have money that Simsbury can benefit from.

The Commission discussed the proposed project at the Grist Mill. The development will include residential as well as office and retail. The Mill building will stay intact.

Mr. Lubetkin suggested scheduling a meeting to discuss this Commission's Strategic Plan. The Commission members agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Lubetkin volunteered to make any necessary revisions to the plan and to also make a presentation to the Commission members at the next meeting. Ms. Charest stated that she would send out a copy of the Strategic Plan to the Commission members for their review prior to the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Feder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Mead

seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.