

From: Rick Bazzano January 16, 2009 12:45:15 PM
Subject: Historic District Commission Minutes 01/05/2009
To: SimsburyCT_HistComm
Cc:

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2009

DRAFT COPY

I. CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman, called the Historic District Commission to order at 7:38 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room in the Simsbury Town Offices. The following members were also present: Kenneth Feder, Diane Mead, Paul Lanza, and Marc Lubetkin. Also in attendance were Lynn Charest, Zoning Enforcement Officer and other interested parties.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

None were needed.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This was not discussed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of December 4, 2008

Kenneth Feder made a motion to approve the December 4, 2008 minutes as written. Diane Mead seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lynn Charest distributed information regarding scenic roads in Simsbury. Marc Lubetkin stated that this was presented to the Commission at the last meeting. He has since met with Ms. Glassman and Anita Mielert regarding this issue, including that East Weatogue Street is not only a historic district, it is also a scenic road. He stated that there is no sign that identifies this as a scenic area. Mr. Lubetkin stated that the Town, in general, has an interest in preserving historic heritage, not just the district. Ms. Glassman and Ms. Mielert were very interested in this idea. He stated that Ms. Glassman also approved the idea of doing an older home

inventory; pieces of this inventory have already been completed, which would help lower the costs. Ms. Glassman had stated that it would be appropriate to solicit funds to do this inventory.

During his meeting with Ms. Glassman and Ms. Mielert, there was also some discussion regarding getting signs for scenic roads; funding for this was also discussed. Neighbors are concerned with the traffic on these roads. Scenic signage might also help with the traffic issues. Mr. Lubetkin stated that Mr. Beach is researching the history of these roads. Regarding the scenic sign for East Weatogue Street, Ms. Mead stated that there may be funds available.

Mr. Lubetkin stated that he would like to have regular updates from other Boards and Commissions to the HDC that might have impacts to the historic district. The idea of an open forum was also discussed with Ms. Glassman. This would allow people to come in and ask questions at the beginning of each HDC meeting. Ms. Glassman had stated that she would like this to start as soon as possible.

Marc Lubetkin stated that if the HDC agrees, they should now work with Lynn Charest and Ms. Glassman in an official capacity to get things going. He suggested making a subcommittee to get things started. They could then create an action plan. He stated that someone would need to be hired regarding the home inventory. An RFP would be needed for this. They would also need to put a funding application through the Connecticut Historical Trust and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The HDC members agreed.

Lynn Charest stated that she did some research regarding building permits that have been taken out on older homes. She stated that the Town is looking into software packages in order to keep track of building permits. Henry Miga, Building Official, suggested that one of the questions on this form could ask if the home is historical. In the meantime, a box could be put on the current form to be checked if the home is in a historic district or a question that could ask the year the home was built. She stated that the Building Department has been very receptive to these ideas.

Lynn Charest stated that Mr. Peck has applied for a grant through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. He is looking to get this grant to focus on historic preservation as one of the main anchor points to increase culture and tourism development along with economic development in Simsbury. Marc Lubetkin stated that this grant will fall under the HDC's authority; this is how the Charter is written for the Historic Trust. He stated that this might be a good opportunity to talk with people from Tourism and Main Street Partnership and partner with them.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Lynn Charest questioned if the HDC has a full membership. The bylaws state that the HDC should have 3 regular members and 2 alternate members that are property owners within the historic district. She stated that the Commission only has one regular and two alternate members that are property owners in the district. Ms. Charest stated that the HDC should review the bylaws and see if any changes should be made.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Diane Mead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Marc Lubetkin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Elizabeth Woollacott, Chairman