



CITY OF STAMFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
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STAMFORD, CT 06904 -2152

FINAL Minutes of the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC)

Date: Regular Meeting held: July 7, 2015
Location: Stamford City Hall, 888 Washington Blvd. Stamford CT 06901
Land Use Bureau - 6th fl. conference Room
Present: Attending: Lynn Drobbin, Anne Goslin, Jill Smyth, David Woods,
Alternates: Rebecca Shannonhouse, Elena Kalman (PT), Lynn Villency
Cohen. Absent: Barry Hersh

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to order (Meeting called to order 7:05 pm)

The Commission moved to have Lynn Villency Cohen serve as voting member for the meeting.
(Moved by J. Smyth and seconded by A. Goslin, and carried unanimously)

II. Approval of June 9 meeting minutes

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 9 meeting. No changes were noted.
(Moved by A. Goslin and seconded by J. Smyth, and carried unanimously)

III Old Business

A. Update: Hoyt Barnum House Relocation

1. L. Drobbin reported that the Board of Representatives Land Use Committee meeting regarding the MOA for the Hoyt Barnum house relocation was last Tuesday. There were too many questions, so the issue was tabled. She asked if HPAC should revisit the HPAC letter issued April 21. The April letter listed actions to be taken prior to demolition.

2. L. Drobbin asked to hear from the public to see if there are any new issues.

3. R. Kahn provided a copy of the letter that she forwarded to the city. She has rethought her position. There are many questions about why city is moving the house. The site is not that easy to use (for the police station). It is an expensive process to move it. It would be considerably less cost to keep the house on the site as is. She does not think the building and the site has had a fair review, to see if the house can co-exist with a new police station.

4. Renee further asked if the cost is greater than the allotted amount of 1 million for the move, and who pays for overrun? Other questions are: Can the new police station building be more than two stories? Can the new police station sit on the site without moving the house? Have alternative studies been done by the city? Does HPAC want to reconsider their position with



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new information and possibly because there is missing information? She believes that it's time to ask the city to look at alternatives to the proposed move of the house.

5. J. Smyth noted concern for how the Hoyt Barnum house would fit and look on the new site. It is still a largely unknown issue and it is still not resolved.

6. W. Haynes noted that HNP will not take up the position that Renee Kahn has expressed. There are 4 issues that are important to HNP.

1st: The city needs to recognize HPAC as a part of the process. HNP has requested that corporate council weigh in on this issue. But HNP cannot request an opinion on jurisdiction. He wants HPAC to submit a letter requesting jurisdiction on the Hoyt Barnum house project.

2nd: There is a poor history of the stewardship of the building so far. There is no indication of what the future for the building is. A feasibility study is needed for the new site. The historical society needs to evaluate how the building will be used, what the costs will be and who is the target audience for the building in the future. The community needs to know that the building will be operated and maintained.

3rd: There should be an outside holder of an easement during the move. The CT Trust could hold the easement. This will help to secure the quality of the work that is done on the building, and should help to establish the relisting of the building after the move.

4th: There should be a guarantee that the building remains on the National Register.

7. W. Haynes believes that the stall of the review process by the Land Use Committee should give HPAC time to add input into the process and review the MOA.

8. L Drobbin asked again: Does HPAC still support the April letter and the city process for the move with the contingencies that were identified in that letter? After much discussion, all agreed that there are some important points to be stated in a new letter to the Land Use Committee. L. Drobbin recommended that the April letter be attached to the new letter. The new points to be added and cited below were voted upon individually.

1. HPAC requests a study of alternatives for the new police station that shows how the Hoyt Barnum house can be retained on site, while still meeting program requirements for the police station.

(A Motion was made by A. Goslin. and seconded by J. Smith and carried unanimously.)

2. HPAC supports the HNP letter that requests a statement of HPAC's jurisdiction over the Hoyt Barnum house move process and will submit a letter to the city's Corporate Council to clarify the jurisdiction



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(A Motion was made by A. Goslin. and seconded by L. Villency Cohen and carried unanimously.)

3. HPAC recommends a “feasibility study” be conducted as part of the MOA. HNP noted that if the SHS does not do it then HNP may take over this task. W. Haynes will ask his board if they can do it.

(A motion was made to include the request by D. Woods and seconded by J. Smyth. There were 4 yes votes and 1 dissenting vote)

4. HPAC recommends that a request for a preservation easement be added to the MOA. The easement can be held by the CT Trust or by SHPO - to be determined.

(A Motion was made to include the request by D. Woods and seconded by J. Smyth, and carried unanimously)

9. The new Hoyt-Barnum letter will be written by Lynn. It will be reviewed by HPAC members and will be sent to the Land Use Committee chairs, Harry Day and David Kooris, with a CC to all committee members. Lynn will also copy the Planning Board.

B. Sacred Heart Updates/ Cottage Reuse or Sale

1. HNP has completed the text for “Historic Property Exchange” and it was sent to the city for review. There has not been a response. L. Drobbin will request an update from of L. Casolo.

2. W. Haynes was requested to meet with the historic architect for the school project to discuss this issue and others on the site.

3. W. Haynes also mentioned that there is some indication that the city may front end the barn stabilization tasks as there is evidence that repairs are needed immediately.

(The item was tabled without further decision. Review of status will be on going)

C. Programming Updates

(There was no discussion. Review of status will be on going)

D. Coastal Survey RFP Status

1. W. Haynes reported that the person from the state historic preservation office (Jenny Scofield) will be in Stamford in a few weeks to review locations for the cultural survey that will be a part of



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a broader coastal survey. Wes has identified a few locations in the city that can be apart of the survey.

2. He also noted that they may want the survey to be in an area near the water. The Cove neighborhood is a good choice and the E. Main St. neighborhood is the most threatened. A location will be determined after more review and the walk through with Jenny

3. There are volunteers from HPAC to attend this first general review of sites with Jenny Scofield on July 29th. She is also coming to a public meeting on the Hubbard Heights application that will be at Stamford Hospital, at 6:00. More information about that meeting will be forthcoming. W. Haynes will update the group when details of the visit become more firm.

(The item was tabled without further decision. Review of status will be on going)

E. Status Pending Demolitions

1. J. Smyth will review 2 demo notices for Stillwater properties at 195 and 211. She believes both of these are for Charter Oak developments.

2. W. Haynes reported on 9 Hobbie Street. There will be a public hearing and the group will be notified. J. Norinski stated that the cottage appears to be on original land owned by John Sloan. It was a working farm. The cottage was originally used for the help. The area was developed with the exception of this property.

3. W. Haynes said that they have not heard back from Planet Pizza about the building on 898 Summer St.

(The demolition items were tabled without further decision. Review of status will be on going)

F. Grants update

(There was no decision. Review of status will be on going.)

G Hubbard Mansion mosaics.

1. The owner presented an option for obscuring the mosaic murals for their new tenant (a school) . The owner said the best solution is the simple one: to hang an “architectural banner” (all weather canvas) with tension rods top and bottom so text and the crest logo for the school can be displayed.

2. D. Woods noted that there may be concern that the banner could look like a “sign” in a residential neighborhood. He also suggested using a color to match columns or maybe a “limestone” color from the building architecture. The group also asked that the school’s logo be smaller, with small text similar to other private schools in the area.



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(A motion was made to accept the banners as long as the sign and logo changes were made and the signs are approved by the Zoning Board, by A. Goslin seconded by J. Smith and carried unanimously.)

IV. New Business

(There was no new business to report)

V. Adjournment

L. Drobbin adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM (There was no further discussion.)

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Woods AIA Secretary
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission