

THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Minutes: The Historic Properties Commission Town of Hamden held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Dept., Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue. The following issues were discussed:

Attending: D. Baker, A. Gorman, E. Highkin, W. Doheny, D. Ioime, T. Levine

Absent: K. Minkema

Guest: Pete Paguaga, Ashley Chin, Bethany Tuller, students from Southern CT State University. Bill Burns, President, Dunbar Hill Civic Association, Bill Casey, Habitat for Humanity, Don Deloge, Sleeping Giant Building Habitat for Humanity, Adam Blasevage, Habitat for Humanity, Michele Mastropetre, Dunbar Hill Civic Association Michael Colaiacovo, 7th District Legislative Councilman

CALL TO ORDER—Chairman Levine called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Chairman Levine motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2010. Mr. Gorman motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Doheny. *The motion carried unanimously.* Ms. Highkin noted that the adjournment for the December 15, 2010 motion was incorrect as she was not present for the meeting. The clerk checked her hand notes and found that the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Doheny and seconded by Mr. Gorman. Mr. Gorman motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2010 with the correction, Dr. Doheny seconded the motion. *The motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC HEARING – Not at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION – At this time Chairman Levine inquired if those present wished to speak on any of the agenda items. Mr. Burns inquired if the Masselli property included the house and the barn and was advised it was only the house.

CHAIR REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE – Chairman Levine advised the Commission that the town web site has been updated. He will be providing additional information to be added to the Historic Properties site.

Unfinished Business

- a. Memorial Town Hall – Mr. Gorman advised the members that the floor in the auditorium had to be completely removed and replaced. The cells in the police department section of the building are installed and some windows are being installed. The exterior masonry work is on hold due to weather conditions. There was an issue with the ceiling in the rotunda but it has been resolved. The police department will open in mid June and the Town Hall in mid September. Mr. Gorman also provided some photos of the work being done.
- b. Jepp's Brook Millsite – Mr. Gorman provided a photo of the new sign to be installed. The sign is currently at the Public Works and will be installed in the spring. The sign is 12x18 and made of cedar. There is \$1,400 of the grant money left to apply towards the brochure to be designed and printed. Chairman Levine has contacted Paier College of Art and they interested in helping. He has not heard from them. The clerk will follow up on this for the Commission. The archeology survey will be complete in about two weeks and Lock 14 should be completed in a month.
- c. Hamden Cemeteries follow up from Mr. Ioime – Mr. Ioime reported that the State Street Cemetery was purchased in 1786 consisting of about four acres. The title is held by the association. The cemetery was moved at one point in 1854. He is still researching the records and will bring any further information to the Commission.
- d. Other Business – Mr. Gorman mentioned that Earth Day this year will be celebrated on Saturday, April 30, 2011 and wanted to know if the Commission wanted to have a table again this year. It will be at the Hamden Middle School and the table will be shared as it has been in the past. The Eli Whitney Museum wing has collapsed from the snow. The roof of the Museum needs to be replaced. The current roof is slate and they are in the process of getting quotes for both slate and wood. Mr. Baker mentioned that there are some very good slate like products that can last 40 – 50 years. The current roof has been in place for 100 years. Chairman Levine would like to see a slate roof replacement as does Mr. Gorman but recognize the cost factor. Chairman Levine will send a letter of support for a slate roof from the Commission to the Museum and also asking to see the specs on the replacement options. Mr. Gorman advised the Commission that 3372 Whitney Ave. a house owned by Quinnipiac University has collapsed and is a complete loss. The house was built in 1875. Mr. Ioime advised the Commission that he researched the Brooksvale Barn and found various deed recordings. The property consisted of a 50 acre parcel, one 40 acres and one 10 acres. The deed is dated 1808 and was recorded in 1813. Mr. Gorman noted that the original barn had burned down and the present barn is a replacement. Mr. Ioime is still researching this property for the Commission to apply for a Barn Grant to help with some needed maintenance.

New Business

- a. Masselli Farmhouse discussion – Mr. Casey, Habitat for Humanity is very interested in the house. He provided information on homes they have done both in New Haven and Hamden. He explained that they do single family detached homes and they do new and rehabilitation. His organization went through the house and will stay with the current designs. At the present there is a hole in the roof and they are trying to get it covered before any further damage occurs from water/snow etc. They will update the house with as little damage to the plaster as possible and they are open to exterior renovation suggestions. The object is for the home is to have reasonable maintenance. The proposed owners will come from applicants with Hamden residents given first preference if they fit the criteria. Mr. Casey has asked the Commission to provide information on restoration. Chairman Levine stated he would like to see the town provide easement on the property. Ms. Mastropetre inquired if the current acreage will

be sub divided and yes it will be ¼ acre sites. The question was raised if there will be enough room to add a garage. It was noted that this can be put in the zoning revisions for the future should the owner wish to add a garage and not have to go back to P&Z for it.

Adjournment – At 7:49 Ms. Highkin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Doheny. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 Parks and Recreation Dept. Conference Room, Government Center 2nd floor 7:00 p.m.

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk