

# *Historic Properties Commission*

MINUTES: The Historic Properties Commission, Town of Hamden held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Ken Minkema, Todd Levine, John (JT) Sancomb, Brian Murphy, Mr. Ioime, Heidi Rubertone

Excused: Ellen Highkin, Douglas Baker

1. Call to Order

Mr. Levine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

**Mr. Minkema made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting. Mr. Ioime seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

3. Public Hearing

There was no public hearing.

4. Public Session

There was no public session.

5. Chair Report/Correspondence

Mr. Levine presented a packet to new member JT Sancomb containing the Commission's Mission Statement, the Ordinance creating the Commission, and other material to bring him up to date.

6. New Applications

There were no new applications.

7. Unfinished Business

## **Memorial Town Hall**

Mr. Levine reported that new floors have been installed. He is not sure what is going on with the doors, which might have to be replaced. They are mahogany and are cracking the same as the Fire Department doors. Information on the parking at the corner of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues is not available. Mr. Sancomb asked about what departments are moving from Government Center to Town Hall. Mr. Ioime said most of the building is the Police Department. The Legislative Council will hold its meetings in the auditorium. Mr. Levine said the building will be used more as a community center.

## **Lock 14**

Mr. Levine made a call to Cheshire but has not received a call back.

## **Hamden Cemeteries**

Mr. Ioime reported that Clean & Green Commission member Scott Howland told him the State Street Cemetery came up at the Clean & Green meeting, and they feel it is time to do something about it. Mr. Howland also attends Veterans Commission meetings, and they want to be involved. This is the South East Cemetery, now known as the State Street Cemetery, and it is in terrible shape. The cemetery has a deeded right of way for the little road that goes to the factories in back, so people can park on the road. The Clean & Green Commission and the Veterans Commission will discuss this project at their meetings. Mr. Howland told Mr. Ioime that we might be able to get enough manpower, but what will we do with the brush and tree limbs. Perhaps that is something the Town can help with. Mr. Ioime also mentioned Quinnipiac's Big Event, a day students volunteer in many areas, but the next event doesn't happen until next April. Mr. Levine said it is not only the cleanup, but there are major problems with the stone walls, and the sign is missing. The last caretaker is the last remaining descendant of a trustee. Mr. Ioime said the association rules said no family member of a trustee can derive income from the cemetery. The association is defunct. It is not in our purview to bring a lawsuit, and the Town doesn't want to get involved. Mr. Sancomb said he visited the cemetery and there is a lot of recent activity there. Mr. Ioime explained that someone from the neighborhood whose parents are buried there asked us to get involved. Mr. Levine said the best that we can do is try to do a cleanup to make it presentable. There is historic fabric there that should be repaired. Mr. Levine mentioned a national organization that helps clean up tombstones. He will send commissioners the information.

## **Ivesville**

Mr. Levine mentioned we need to decide next steps. Mr. Minkema asked if we are looking at any kind of deadlines. Mr. Levine said we have to resubmit because we have changed the boundaries. He sees doing the rounds of the neighborhood again, issue a circular, target a date for P&Z, and do as much as we can to get residents of the District, members of the Historical Society, members of this Commission to attend the meeting, and get some signatures on a petition. There was concern about starting a petition and then getting only a few names.

Mr. Levine also wants to bring people from the CT Trust and the State to the P&Z meetings. Mr. Minkema said P&Z meetings are scheduled for May 28, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and August 13<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on which dates to aim for. The decision was to plan for the July 23<sup>rd</sup> date. Mr. Levine believes we can get through P&Z. P&Z was concerned about a commercial property in the District.

Mr. Levine said for the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have to print a number of copies of the application for P&Z, and Mr. Minkema will make sure the application is totally up to date. There are 27 lots and we added one building that was built in 1971. Mr. Minkema will have the application ready in a week, and Mr. Levine will forward to Mr. Gorman and see if we can get some copies made. After we get the final, he will have Ms. Gempka forward it to all commissioners. Mr. Minkema said we have to get past the fear of the property owners that they will have to pay more for repairs and/or taxes. Mr. Levine mentioned that the people from the state are experts and will speak very well. The last time the application was denied unanimously without prejudice, and that was probably in 2011. We want to make sure representatives from the CT Trust and the State will be available.

### **Earth Day**

Mr. Gorman, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Highkin hosted the Commission's table at the Earth Day event. Mr. Murphy said it was really well attended, and many people picked up literature. Mr. Minkema said Ms. Roach does a great job with this event.

### **Saw Mill**

Mr. Levine said the Saw Mill will be our new unfinished business going forward. Mr. Gorman and Mr. Minkema have been talking to Craig Reynolds about donating and moving the circa 1879 circular saw from his property. The saw used to be steam driven and has now been electrified. It was known as the Chatterton Mill for centuries. Mr. Reynolds wants to sell his property, and they are talking about moving the saw to the Dickerman House site, but that is a little dicey because it involves wetlands. The plan would be to put the saw on the west end of the property, near the Mill River, which is problematic. Mr. Gorman is now exploring placing the saw at Brooksvale Park, which seems to be getting tentative approval. There would have to be a slab for the unit and the cart. The whole thing is about the length of this room. There are patent plates on it dated 1873 and it is from a company in Orange, MA. We would like to get the saw approved by the state as a historical object. Mr. Minkema has prepared the nomination, but he wants to make sure we have a place to put it. Mr. Levine said we have to contact the state about getting it on the state register. Mr. Minkema said we have already sent a draft of the nomination form, and he has received some comments and suggestions. The saw is on the Reynolds property across the street from West Woods School. It is a 19<sup>th</sup> century house that faces the road. Mr. Sancomb said he purchased lumber from Mr. Reynolds' father, or Arthur Doolittle. The house on the pond on Chatterton used to be the sawmill. Mr. Minkema said saw will require a foundation and fabric around it.

There was no further business.

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Levine made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

**Submitted by:**

Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk