

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERATION COUNCIL

Historic Preservation Council Meeting  
One Constitution Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut  
January 4, 2017

Meeting Minutes – Conference Call Meeting

Present: Ms. Gilvarg, Dr. Jones, Ms. Maher, Dr. Woodward, Ms. Kane, Dr. Faber, and Dr. Glaser  
Absent: Chairwoman Nelson, and Dr. Partridge  
Staff: Mary Dunne, Deborah Gaston, Leigh Johnson, and Doug Royalty  
Guest: Mr. Daniel Mackay, and Mr. Greg Farmer, CT Trust; and Ms. Elizabeth Normen, CT Explored

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation was called to order at 9:39 am.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Ms. Gilvarg read the public comment procedure in Chairwoman Nelson’s absence.

**III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest**

Ms. Gilvarg asked the members if there were any potential perceptions of conflict of interest with any agenda items being brought before the Council.

Ms. Kane – Agenda Item V (a)  
Dr. Woodward – Agenda Item V(c)

**IV. Review and Approval Minutes**

***December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes, Recorded Transcription***

The recorded transcription of December 7, 2016; is in lieu of meeting minutes, there will be no vote.

**V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items**

***a. Partners in Preservation Grant: CT Trust Preservation HPTAG Amendment***

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council approves the Partner in Preservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$573,525.00. The original grant item number 9F2 was approved back in December 3, 2014 and is being amended to increase the amount by \$53,525.00.*

*Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)*

Dan Mackay provided clarification that the additional funding is for a contract extension for a HPTAG grant in which the Trust has administered over the past two years. The proposed extension and additional funding is for five specific projects that do not involve the Stowe Center. The grant is for a fixed target and a fixed request. Based on the clarification provided, the Council decided Ms. Kane did not have to recuse herself and could participate in the discussion.

- b. Partners in Preservation Grant: CT Trust for Historic Preservation Windows Workshop***  
*On a motion by Ms. Maher, Second by Dr. Faber, the Historic Preservation Council approves the Partners in Preservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$15,000. Hearing no further discussion, motion passed. (Y-5, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)*

Ms. Kane noted the budget was confusing, the amount in the text for the workshop tuition and the amount in the budget itself differ. The budget indicates 15 participants at \$200.00 and the text indicates tuition as \$150.00. In the earlier workshop round the 2015 budget tuition revenue was \$1,800 and actual revenue was \$100.00, a shortfall in revenue.

Greg Farmer from the CT Trust mentioned they [Trust] has been working with The Preservation Education Institute (PEI) in Windsor, Vermont and the PEI has been conducting workshops for several years throughout the Northeast and the Midwest. The cost of the workshops have gone up so the tuition is now \$200 per participant instead of \$150. The materials have not been updated but will be pending the approval of the proposal today. The \$1,800 that was budgeted for the workshop tuition in the previous budget was a number given to the Trust by PEI. The actual tuition was much lower because of the availability under state grant and the opportunity for some people to attend the workshop on a quid pro-quo basis and is the reason for the short-falling in the workshop tuition revenue. This year we expect a high attendance. In 2015 there was one (1) hands-on workshop, this year there are two (2). The amount requested has doubled from two years ago.

***Dr. Jones joined the meeting at 9:59 a.m.***

- c. Partners in Preservation Grant: Connecticut Explored Partners in Preservation***

***Dr. Woodward recused himself from the meeting.***

*On a motion by Ms. Maher, second by Dr. Jones, the Historic Preservation Council approves a Partners in Preservation Fund Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00. Hearing no further discussion motion passed. (Y-6, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg and Woodward)*

Dr. Jones had a question on the check list, CHRO (Commission on Human Rights) form was not checked. Ms. Dunne noted – for this type of grant and this amount of money the CHRO form is not required.

Dr. Glaser asked if the Historic Preservation Council has funded this part of CT Explored before. Ms. Dunne replied this will be the third grant CT Explored has received, however; this is the first grant for curriculum.

Ms. Normen from CT Explored mentioned they have enjoyed the partnership with SHPO and it has allowed CT Explored to share and present with their audience a lot of different topics in these periodic issues devoted specifically to Historic Preservation.

”Where I Live Connecticut” is a new project coming out of the state adopting recommendations that Connecticut material be incorporated in to a curriculum at the K-12 level, but the state is not providing funding for it. We were hearing from teachers even though they are creating their own curriculum, there is not a lot of written resources available for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. There is a need for teacher training and curriculum support. There is a model for these kind of projects with the Parks Service, but the material on their site is at a higher grade level. We are trying to get the students to look at the world around them and to notice their physical environment. We are excited to getting the students this young thinking about Connecticut history and the world around them.

Ms. Maher mentioned the SHPO just awarded the Connecticut Humanities Council \$250,000.00 to fund these types of projects. CT Explored should contact Connecticut Humanities to see if there are any granting opportunities.

*Dr. Woodward returned to the meeting.*

## **VI. State Register Nominations**

None at this time.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **a. Norwich – Reid & Hughes (update)**

Ms. Dunne reported it was her understanding a meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2017. Todd Levine will have more information regarding the meeting and she will ask him to provide an update to the Council members via email.

Dan Mackay added there were two meetings since last month’s HPC meeting where the resolution was undertaken. SHPO, CT Trust, and local advocates in Norwich met with a representative from the Attorneys’ General Office and there was a lot of momentum into the holidays. Communications with the City of Norwich have been strong and positive.

## **VIII. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies**

Dan Mackay expressed thanks on the votes on grant requests on important programs and continuing to underscore the need for preservation funding in the state of Connecticut. We are anticipating a tough year in terms of protecting the Community Investment Act funding levels. The Trust, CT Preservation Action and the coalition of other organizations representing other program areas are going to be working very hard to defend the Community Investment Act. We will be advocating for an increase in the State Rehabilitation Tax Allocation. There are now great concerns that the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit will be subject to potential curtailment or outright elimination in federal tax reform efforts in order to get to a federal 15% corporate tax rate. There are a number of programs that are at risk to make that number possible, including the Federal Credit for Rehabilitation, the New Markets Credit which is used for rehabilitation of historic properties and the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit is also on the target list. The Trust will be monitoring these issues.

The Federal Railroad Association (FRA) did release its final environmental impact statement for the NEC high-speed rail plan from Boston to Washington. The preferred route identified by FRA is the coastal

route from Greenwich to Mystic which includes new track segments, routes and alignments for high speed trains. Thirty miles of alignment in Fairfield County and the seacoast bypass fifty miles of new alignment between Old Saybrook and Kenyon, Rhode Island. There is a January 31<sup>st</sup> comment deadline and the Trust has requested an extension, but is uncertain if the FRA will grant the extension.

Ms. Maher asked Dan Mackay if he had an agenda for lobby day. Mr. Mackay has not seen anything recent from the National Preservation Act, but there are dates which he will circulate, and believes the focus will be on countering the tax reform.

Dr. Woodward was asked to write a letter in support of a grant application which will appear before the Council next month or the month after. Dr. Woodward noted he will not be in attendance and will be absent and recouping from a medical procedure and wanted to know what are the ethical considerations if any. There were no ethical considerations in the opinion of the Council given he would not be in attendance at the time the grant would be presented, and if he was in attendance he would need to recuse himself from the meeting.

**IX. *Public Forum***

**X. *Adjournment***

*A motion was made by Ms. Maher to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no further discussion – meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am. (Y-7, N-0, Abstaining – Gilvarg)*

Respectfully submitted by;  
Deborah Gaston, Secretary