

*Robert J. Parak*

HDC 08/12/13

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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

TOWN CLERK  
EAST HARTFORD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 12, 2013

The special meeting of the Historic District Commission of East Hartford, Connecticut was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room A on the first floor of Town Hall by Chairman David Holmes. On a roll call by Secretary Gloria Visgilio-Lupi:

PRESENT: Chairman David Holmes, Vice Chair Travis Simpson, Mary Manns, Alternate Jeffrey Cummings, Margaret Byrnes and Secretary Gloria Visgilio-Lupi.

ABSENT: Municipal Historian Raymond Johnson.

ALSO PRESENT: Liaison, Clare Fravel; Director of Inspections and Permits, Greg Grew; Town Development Director, Eileen Buckheit (7:05); and Town resident Bill Doak.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Cummings to accept the June 3, 2013 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes; seconded by Ms. Manns. Vote was unanimous and uncontested. Ms. Byrnes abstained.

MOTION by Mr. Simpson to accept the June 3, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Cummings. Vote was unanimous and uncontested. Ms. Byrnes abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: The communications listed on the agenda were discussed.

Chair Holmes commented on the demolition permits for 160 High Street and 168-170 High Street. The buildings and foundations are in very poor condition. The Commission asked that the remediation and demolition be completed in a reasonable time to avoid blight in the neighborhood.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding the Notice of Intent to Demolish 26 Bissell Street. Everyone on the Commission was disappointed and was opposed to the demolition; however they understood why it was being considered. The Town's Director of Inspections and Permits submitted a health report from the Environmental/Public Health Supervisor noting the unsanitary conditions in the building and the fact that the building was unfit for occupancy at this time.

The Town's Development Director explained that the building is landlocked on three sides and is not wanted by any of the abutting property owners. The building also has no parking. The Town decided on demolition because of the poor condition that the building is in, the fact that there is no parking, lack of funding resources, and the removal of blight in the neighborhood.

Commission members also felt they should have been made aware of the condition of the building long before they received a "Notice of Intent to Demolish". Maybe something could have been done years ago to help save the building.

The Commission decided that they would like to express their dissatisfaction with the demolition to the Mayor. Mr. Simpson made a MOTION to authorize Chair Holmes to send an e-mail message to the Mayor explaining the Commission members' feelings on the

demolition and to ask if the demolition could be delayed so other options could be explored. For example, issuing an R.F.P. for the building for other uses; seconded by Mr. Cummings. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS/RESIDENTS TO SPEAK: Mr. Simpson spoke as a citizen and as a resident of the Town's Historic District. Mr. Simpson was very angry that the building was being demolished. He felt that it was being demolished due to lack of maintenance by the Town of East Hartford Facilities Department. He would like to see more effort going towards not demolishing historic buildings in Town. He suggested that if it was necessary to demolish a building, then building recycling companies should be asked if the building could be dismantled and used for building materials for historic buildings. Mr. Simpson feels that Town assets should never be abandoned or neglected.

Town Resident, Bill Doak also spoke in opposition of the demolition of the historic building. He is a town resident and does not believe in "demolition by neglect".

OLD BUSINESS:

PROCESS TO CHANGE MEETING DATES: The process to change a meeting date is to submit a change with the Town Clerk's office 24 hours in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS: Ms. Manns was appointed as a Regular member (former Alternate member). Her term expires in December 2018. Ms. Fravel also mentioned that both Mr. Cummings' and Mr. Simpson's terms expire in December 2013.

PAYMENTS:

1. Clerk (\$75)
2. CT Trust For Historic Preservation 2013-14 Membership (\$75)

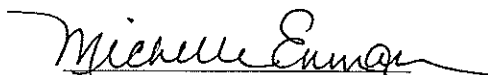
MOTION by Ms. Byrnes to pay the above listed expenses; seconded by Mr. Cummings. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Ms. Fravel presented the Commission with an additional communications item that was not listed on the agenda.

- CT Barns Trail Brochure -- Seven Self-Guided Tours by Region.
- Mr. Simpson discussed the barn on Naubuc Avenue that is in a state of disrepair and is in danger of collapsing. The building needs to be demolished. The Inspections and Permits department will follow up on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Mr. Cummings to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Simpson. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Michelle Enman, clerk