



Westport Historic District Commission

Town Hall

Westport, Conn. 06880

WESTPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

March 13, 2018 ACTION MINUTES

(Digital Recording of Meeting is Available)

The Westport Historic District Commission held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**, in **Town Hall, Room 309/307** for the following purposes:

Members Present: Chair Randy Henkels, Vice Chair Ed Gerber, Clerk Grayson Braun, Alternates Cheryl Bliss, Judi Freedman, and Marilyn Harding

1. To hear the Chair's report and update on current HDC activities.

Chair confirmed the receipt of the final Bridge Street National Register Nomination by the National Park Service with anticipated listing on the national Register in a couple of months.

HDC is investigating the possible thematic study of 9 local stone bridges built in the 1920s for a National Register Nomination study. However, due to the question of whether these bridges meet the standards for National Register listing, the Commission was advised by the State Historic Preservation Office National Register Coordinator to do a preliminary eligibility study. Sample studies were received by the HDC office for review. As chair, he will continue to discuss the future study with the Director of Public Works and the First Selectman.

2. To approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to revise the January 9, 2018 minutes concerning Item #10 to state that the HDC is seeking funding for the thematic study of 9 local stone bridges and to include the HDC memo with HDC comments concerning proposed modifications at 2 Riverside Avenue.

The minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. To take such action as the meeting may determine to approve a retroactive *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* for the installed monuments identifying the location of the former foundation at the **West Parish Meeting House Site** (Tax Map FO7, Lot#33/Corner of Greens Farms Road and Sherwood Island Connector), a local historic landmark property and state archaeological preserve.

Director of Public Works Pete Ratkiewich presented the Town's request for a retroactive *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* for 4 installed monuments (stone markers salvaged from a local cemetery and previously used as an element of fencing around a collection of graves) at the West Parish Meeting House Site. He stated that the town supports the installation of the stone monuments and deemed them durable enough to better sustain the elements than the temporary stakes and rebars previously marking the historic footprint of the original second meeting house. He commented that the Town could replace

them in the future if they decided to consider the recommendation in the cultural landscape treatment plan or another alternative.

Following Mr. Ratkewich's presentation, Chair Henkel's gave a report on the historic background of the site and the 2011 comprehensive treatment plan for maintenance and development prepared by a consulting firm through grant funding. With regard to the efforts of members from the Greens Farms Church Congregational Church to replace the temporary stakes, he expressed appreciation. However, the Town with confirmation from Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Flug and the State Historic Preservation Office, determined that the activity requires a *Certificate of Appropriateness* approval for these structures which are affixed to the ground and, therefore, regulated by the HDC.

Morley Boyd and John Suggs protested that the installation of the markers was not regulated by the HDC. Helen Garten stated, although permission should have been granted by the town and "agreed completely that the HDC should have been involved," it was her opinion that the Handbook's list of regulated activities was not clear to the public, therefore, the *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* should be withdrawn. Eileen Flug commented that the Handbook is intended to provide helpful guidance to property owners and not to be construed as a complete itemization of all activities regulated by the HDC.

Clerk Grayson Braun made a motion to withdraw the item from the agenda which was not seconded.

Chair Henkels stated that the HDC on behalf of the town spent considerable time and expense preparing a preservation plan for the historic site and no action should have occurred without the approval of the HDC.

Upon motion by Ed Gerber and seconded by Randy Henkels and approved by a vote 4 (yes) Henkels, Gerber, Weingarten, Bliss and 1(abstention) Braun to approve a *Certificate of Appropriateness* for the installed monuments at the West Parish Meeting House Site.

4. ~~To review and comment on 8-24 Report Request for sale of town-owned property at 136 Riverside Avenue, identified on the Historic Resources Inventory as the Post Goodsell House, c. 1892.~~
WITHDRAWN
5. To take such action as the meeting may determine to oppose the issuance of the demolition permit at **319 Bayberry Lane** and require the full 180-day delay. **DENIED** by a vote 4 (no) Henkels, Gerber, Weingarten, Freedman and 1 (yes) Braun. (No objection to the issuance of a demolition permit)
6. To take such action as the meeting may determine to oppose the issuance of the demolition permit at **113 Old Road** and require the full 180-day delay. **Unanimously DENIED.** (No objection to the issuance of a demolition permit).