

Historic Preservation Commission  
Town of East Windsor  
11 Rye Street, East Windsor, CT 06016

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Regular Meeting conducted at 11 Rye Street, East Windsor, CT 06016.

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Barbara Smigiel, Kirk Montstream, Karla Bagdikian, and Jessica Bottomley. Scott Morgan arrived at 6:34 PM and departed at 7:38 PM.

Members Absent: No member absent except during times noted above.

Chairperson Barbara Smigiel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**I. Establish a Quorum**

A quorum was established.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were viewed.

It was MOVED (Montstream) and SECONDED (Bagdikian) and PASSED (U) that the Minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 be approved. (Scott Morgan not present for this vote.)

**III. Correspondence**

- None

**IV. Public Participation**

- a. First Selectman Denise Menard:** Ms. Menard addressed the commission and stated that John Burnham presented a proposal to the Board of Selectman in regards to the District 12 Schoolhouse. She asked if the school is on the historic register and Chair Smigiel stated that the building is not on the historic register. Ms. Menard stated that the town

has discussed possible demolition of the building and she wants to avoid this, however, the building is becoming dilapidated. Speaking for herself, and not for the Board of Selectman, she stated that it would be impractical to wait for grants and supported John Burnham's proposal of moving the structure to the Historical Society.

- b. **John Burnham:** Mr. Burnham of 178 Scantic Road, East Windsor, addressed the commission and stated that he made a proposal to the Board of Selectman on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He submitted a copy of his proposal to the commission. He stated that his proposal will be privately funded and that time is of the essence. He also stated that the Historical Society is ready to accept the building to their property.
- c. **Selectman Jim Richards:** Mr. Richards of 43 Rockville Road, East Windsor, addressed the commission and stated that the District 12 Schoolhouse is falling apart and feels that moving the building to the Historical Society's property, as John Burnham has proposed, is a preservation effort. He stated that there are any more discussions needed to see if this proposal can be done legally. He also stated that even if the building is preserved on site, maintaining the property in the future may also become an issue.
- d. **Mario Costa:** Mr. Mario Costa of 18 Griffin Road, East Windsor, addressed the commission and stated that he lives near the District 12 Schoolhouse property. He stated the property is not currently maintained and he is concerned for the safety of his 2 children. He stated that he has made no complaints to the town but that the property in its current condition is not helping the neighborhood and he wants something to be done.

Due to the public participation centering on the District 1 Schoolhouse, the commission discussed this topic at length. Jessica Bottomley stated that she is the Secretary for the Historical Society and clarified that the Society has had no official vote on accepting the building to the property at 115 Scantic Road, but that the Board members were very interested. Chair Smigiel stated that renovation efforts take time and money and gave examples of other such efforts in neighboring towns. She further stated that moving the building eliminated the ability to place the building on the historic register and therefore does not make it eligible for some grants. Lastly, she stated that a volunteer effort could be utilized, with funding from public and private entities, to preserve the school at its current site. If the school were to be moved, she stated that a certified mover of historic buildings would be preferred as they have the expertise for such a structure. Prior to the motion, Jessica Bottomley stated again that she serves on the Board for the East Windsor Historical Society as their secretary and asked if this represented a conflict of interest due to the proposal indicating moving the District 12 Schoolhouse to the historical society property. Selectman Richards stated that Ms. Bottomley could still vote as she made the commission aware of her position.

It was MOVED (Montstream) and SECONDED (Morgan) and PASSED (In favor: Montstream, Morgan, Bottomley; Opposed: Bagdikian; Abstained: Smigiel) for the

commission to support the proposal presented to the Board of Selectman for the District 12 Schoolhouse.

**V. Added Agenda Items:** None

**VI. Old Business:**

It was MOVED (Morgan) and SECONDED (Bottomley) and PASSED (U) that the commission table all old business items to the next meeting.

- a. **District 12 Schoolhouse:** See: Public Participation
- b. **Melrose Historic District:** Tabled.
- c. **Driving Tour:** Tabled.

**VII. New Business**

- a. **2014 Budget:** The commission discussed what should be proposed to the select board for the 2014 budget. Kirk Montstream suggested that some funds should be requested for educational purposes so that commission members can learn more about historic preservation.

It was MOVED (Montstream) and SECONDED (Bagdikian) and PASSED (U) that the commission budget request be for a total of \$1500.00, with \$1000.00 for educational seminars and \$500.00 for correspondence and dues. (Scott Morgan not present for this vote.)

Chair Smigiel will submit the budget request to the selectman's office.

**VIII. Adjournment**

It was MOVED (Bagdikian) and SECONDED (Montstream) and PASSED (U) that the Historic Preservation Commission adjourn the regular meeting at 7:41 PM.