**WASHINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Bryan Hall Memorial Plaza**

**Washington Connecticut 06793**

 **Minutes – November 20, 2017**

7:00 PM Main Level Conference Room

Members Present: Jane Boyer, Tom Hollinger, Phyllis Mills, Sally Woodroofe

Members Absent: Susan Averill

Alternates Present: Bill Fairbairn, Dimitri Rimsky

Alternates Absent: Louise Van Tartwijk

I. Regular Business

Mr. Hollinger called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and seated Mr. Rimsky for Ms. Averill.

II. Consideration of the Minutes October 16, 2017

The Commissioners reviewed the October 16, 2017 minutes and there were no corrections.

 MOTION: To approve the October 16, 2017 meeting minutes. By Ms. Mills, seconded by Ms. Boyer, passed 5 to 0.

Discussion - Discuss Demolition Delay Ordinance in Connecticut

Discussion topics included:

* Each commissioner has the copy of a suggested ordinance that is found on the CT Trust for Historic Preservation website. The CT Handbook does discuss delay but only for buildings that are already in an historic district. Currently there are no houses designated as Historic Properties under the Connecticut Trust Statute. A Milford resident provided information on these buildings to Ms. Woodroofe. She told the Commission that she wanted to present the information to the HDC to see if it was something that should be supported by the Commission.
* Louise Van Tartwijk previously referred to the 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development where the Demolition Delay was mentioned. It was not pursued.
* Ms. Woodroofe spoke to Stephen Bartkus, Gunn Library Curator, who said it was of particular concern to the Gunn. He provided Ms. Woodroofe with very helpful information.
* Should the HDC reach out to residents to see how they feel about this issue?
* Referencing the book entitled *Historic and Architectural Resource Survey of Washington Connecticut* compiled by Paul A. Graney, Project Historian and Project Director

Mary M. Donohue, Ms. Woodroofe told the group that this massive compilation/book has all the written material that the Washington HDC needs.

* Mr. Hollinger posed the question that if the HDC thinks there is wisdom in this, what would the process be if the Commission, as a group, decides to endorse? First, Ms. Woodroofe told the members that Selectman Lyon seems to be open to this. The Commission would approach the Selectmen and after that it would go on to a town meeting. If approved at the town meeting, then the Selectmen would appoint people to sit on an historic review committee and these people would actually handle the work of this committee.
* Mr. Hollinger asked Mr. Fairbairn for his comments on this proposal since Mr. Hollinger values Mr. Fairbairn’s input as an attorney. Mr. Fairbairn stated that he did not see any legal issues and offered his assistance.
* Mr. Hollinger asked the group if they wanted to form an exploratory committee. This idea was agreed to by all present. Ms. Boyer, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Hollinger, Mr. Rimsky and

Ms. Woodroofe expressed their desire to be on the committee. A suggestion was made to use the same procedures and format that the HDC used in the recent updates to the Rules and Regulations and the Design Guidelines.

 MOTION: To include subsequent business not on the agenda:

 Mr. Hollinger – Gunn Historical Museum, 5 Wykeham Road, proposed underground propane tank with exposed above ground fuel hatch and a new A/C conditioning unit – all visible from a public way.

 By: Mr. Hollinger, seconded by Ms. Woodroofe, passed 5 to 0.

 The Gunn Museum wants to replace the HVAC system with climate control throughout the entire inside of the museum for better preservation of artifacts. Members agreed to view the site for the proposed underground fuel tank in order to better help the museum understand what it is applying for. The Museum will apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness in a public hearing at the

December 18, 2017 meeting.

MOTION: To schedule a site walk with Stephen Bartkus, Curator Gunn Historical Museum.

 By Mr. Hollinger, seconded by Ms. Boyer, passed 5 to 0.

Since there was no further business, Mr. Hollinger if there was a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: To adjourn. By Ms. Boyer, seconded by Ms. Woodroofe, passed 5 to 0.

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti, Historic District Commission Clerk November 27, 2017