

Historic District Commission

March 20, 2012

7:30 pm

The River House

1. Call to order

The East Haddam Historic District was called to order at 7:36 upon the arrival of the Chairman.

2. Will Brady, Joseph Zirlis, Karl Stofko, Pam Rubenbauer, and Chris Miller

Others present: Jerry Littner, Suzanne Littner, Matther Carrol, Tracey Carrol, Bob Scherr and Carol Scherr

3. Informal Discussion

Ms. Littner of 86 Millington rd, Millington green, stated they needed to resurface the terrace. Ms. Littner also stated they decided to add a pergola on the half of the terrace off the kitchen. The pergola would be made of wood and either painted or stained to match the house, perhaps with some vegetation growing on it. The pergola would be 16x20. Chairman Brady asked about lighting. Ms. Littner stated the lighting would be either a period chandelier for outdoor use and perhaps electrical outlets to provide additional lighting on an as needed basis. Chairman Brady asked about a start date. the Littner's stated they hoped to come before the commission in April and start after that. The public stated they were in support of the project. Mr. Zirlis also stated the project looked nice. The Littners left at this time.

Mr. Carrol, an owner of the former Hayden Wine and Spirits came before the commission. He stated they decided to rename the business Swing Bridge Wine and Spirits. Pictures of the new proposed letter head and signs were presented at this time. Mr. Carrol stated there would be no changes to the lighting. The Carrol's presented three signs on the front sign on the building to be located near the front door 2x3 feet , 5x 1.49 feet for the side of the building and 7.73x 1.99 feet on the front of the building the back of the sign would be dark blue with white lettering. Ms. Miller stated she felt the size of the lettering of wine and spirits should be larger. Chairman Brady also agreed the size should be larger. Mr. Carrol stated he was concerned about going over the size the town allowed for a sign. Chairman Brady stated in the past the town usually accepted what the historic district approved in terms of sign size. Mr. Zirlis stated the sign looked good. Mr. Scherr and Mrs. Scherr stated they like and supported the proposed sign. The Carrols and the Scherrs left at this time.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Brady stated he had received a call from Michael about redoing the roof of the Rathburn library near the handicapped entrance, Chairman Brady stated he had not been able to speak to him about the specifics, but would.

Chairman Brady also stated he had also received a call from Bob Smith about needing to bury a propane tank on 61 Main Street Chairman Brady reported the only place to bury it was in front of the carriage house. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Brady also stated he had received a paper on a trust for the preservation of historic properties and buildings. Mr. Zirlis asked about nominating the Palmer Warrner house and Chairman Brady stated they could not nominate it because it was not owned by a municipality. Chairman Brady stated he would contact Mr. Ventres to discuss possible properties.

Chairman Brady stated Mr. Nelson had made a Facebook page for the 100th anniversary of the East Haddam Bridge. Ms. Rubenbauer suggested lighting up the bridge. Please see attached letter and picture.

Dr. Stofko stated he felt any celebrations should be done in conjunction with Haddam.

Ms. Rubenbauer presented some pictures of Johnsonville and the Salmon River to the Historic district for the records.

Minutes

Dr. Stofko made a motion to approve the minutes as amended Mr. Zirlis seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Rubenbauer made a motion to adjourn the motion was seconded by Dr. Stofko the motion passed unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm

Hans & Kris,

John Discola told me last October that he wanted to put permanent lights on the bridge. I concurred but had no idea how to go about it. In February, Jane Kagel expressed her interest in lighting the bridge (especially after the 12 Doors fiasco).

Early in March, I picked up a Colonial Homes magazine, the May 1998 issue. Inside was a picture of the Centennial Bridge in Davenport, Iowa. It's a mile long bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Davenport and Rock Island, Illinois. Regional economy is similar to Connecticut in that it depends greatly on the defense industry.

So, after seeing the picture, I decided to call for information. I spoke to Kathy Wine who heads-up a non-profit citizen's action group known as River Action. The subcommittee to light the bridge was/is known as **Lights River Action**. They conceived of this notion as an economic development project and started it in the 1980s during the first waves of defense downsizing. The group went after private rather than public funds for which they still garnered a great deal of criticism. i.e., Why would they want to light the bridge when homeless people were sleeping under it? etc. etc. etc.

They got 16 "active" businessmen to help with fund raising, and held 40 fund raising functions. They sold lights and light fixtures using the slogan "put your name in lights," and collected \$300,000. The local power company supported the project 100%. A company in Cincinnati, Ohio, Garfield Electric, flew out to Davenport, looked at the bridge, developed a design and gave it to the group, all pro bono. The group flew down to Memphis, Tennessee to look at a similar project down there (they paid for that themselves). A local manufacturer of electrical fixtures produced the assemblies at cost. They had some problems with their State DoT, but not enough to deter them from completion of the project.

The lights, manufactured and installed, plus a big lighting celebration, \$200,000. Don't forget, the bridge is a mile long (5,280 ft. see photo). They deposited the remaining \$100,000 into the foundation established for the maintenance of the lights. From beginning to end the project took two years.

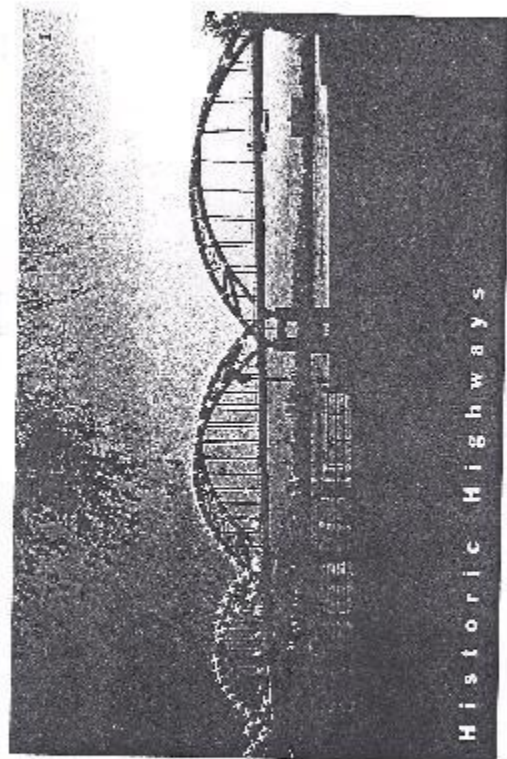
Looking carefully at the picture, you can see there is a light installed at the top of every vertical girder or brace. I don't know how many arches there are (maybe you can calculate it), but I figure there must be about 189 lights on this bridge. Our bridge is only 889' long and may require 70 lights. We should be able to light it for \$60,000.

Sue Merrow tells me that the Portland and Middletown are planning to light the Arigoni Bridge upriver and the DoT is picking up the tab. I don't know if we want to go that way. I won't know that until I speak to everyone who claims a piece of the bridge.

There you have it. That's where we are right now. I've written to Paul Buhl, our judge of Probate, requesting his assistance (pro bono) in getting non-profit status. I faxed a blurb to Michael Price requesting his support of the project (because, after all, the surrounding scenery will be enhanced).

What do you think? Are you going to the meeting Monday night? If so, we can talk then.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Historic Highways