

East Haddam Historic District Commission

May 15, 2012

7:30 pm

River House

- Call to order
- The Regular meeting of the East Haddam Historic District was called to order by Chairman Will Brady on Tuesday May 15, 2012 at 7:40pm at the River House upon the arrival of quorum.
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- Attendance
- Will Brady, David Nelson, Joe Zirlis, Steve Rossi, Pam Rubenbauer
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- Others present: George Fellner of Fellner Associates representing the town of East Haddam and Charlie Farrow East Haddam Historic Society
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- Informal Discussion
- Chairman Brady appointed Ms. Rubenbauer to voted in place of Ms. Miller.
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- Chairman Brady made a motion to amend the agenda to read the handicapped discussion about handicapped access to the grange not the Rathburn Mr. Nelson seconded. Chairman Brady also made a motion to add a discussion of potential open space known as the Zeiller property to the agenda. Mr. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Fellner presented the commission with plans to add a ramp to the grange hall to provide for handicapped access. Mr. Fellner stated the plan was to remove the structure where the chair lift planning to replace the wood on the railings in the front of the grange. Mr. Rossi if it would be like for like material Mr. Fellner stated it would be. Mr. Fellner also stated the ramp would be "U" shaped and the entrance to the building would be on the front porch. Mr. Fellner stated because the commission had not seem receptive to the idea of a roof over the ramp there would not be a roof put on, however the railing would be raised up 6inches to comply with code. Mr. Rossi asked about the possibility of rear access to the building. Mr. Fellner stated a rear entrance would not be welcoming and would require a lot of changes to the interior of the building. Chairman Brady asked about lighting changes to the building he also stated that large pan lights would be in keeping with the fact it was a utilitarian building . Mr. Fellner said they planned on replacing the two lights in the front of the building and adding the same type of lighting to illuminate the ramp. Mr. Fellner also pointed out where the air condensing unit would be located near the rear of the ramp. Mr. Fellner also stated they were considering replacing the windows in the grange with something more energy efficient in both the grange and the Town Hall. Mr. Nelson stated he was very much against changing the windows in the Town hall. Mr. Nelson asked if the

window were operable Chairman Brady stated they were, and he also had concerns about changing the windows and suggested adding full length storm windows to improve the efficiency of the building and protect the original glass.

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- Mr. Fellner also stated they planned on removing the shrubs from the front of the grange and adding square lattice work. Mr. Nelson asked about adding lattice under the ramp as well. Mr. Fellner stated he thought it would be a good idea because it would keep people out from underneath.
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- Mr. Nelson also asked about the roadway and lighting changes. Mr. Fellner said he was not certain about those changes at this time he stated they were having a meeting about it very soon.
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- Chairman Brady asked the public about thoughts on the project. The public stated they did not see the value in repairing the windows he felt it would be better to go with replacement windows.
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- Mr. Farrow representing the East Haddam Historical society stated he was there to discuss the 100th anniversary celebration of the bridge . Mr. Farrow stated the historical society had many pictures before they put the bridge in and many photos of the bridge being built. He also stated Josh Hews was an Eagle scout who was doing his Eagle scout project on the bridge and currently gathering information to make a display, which would be displayed from memorial day 2013 to Columbus day 2013 at the historical society. Mr. Farrow also stated they intended to have an art contest with the bridge as the theme and the winning piece of art would be displayed on a T shirt. Mr. Nelson stated he would love to see the old picture of the oxen pulling a cart over the bridge and paying the toll and proceeds from the toll could go to charity. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Fellner and Mr. Farrow left at 8:40 pm.

Open Space

Chairman Brady stated the town was interested in acquiring more property for open space specifically the Zeiller property located on Florida rd and Clark Hill Road. He stated the piece of property was 102.82 acres. And the Page property 238 acres. Chairman Brady also stated in the past the State would provide 40% of the funding needed for the land acquisition. Chairman Brady asked the commission if they would like him to write a letter in support of the project the commission agreed.

Chairman Brady stated the commission needed to have some of its member re nominated specifically, Mr. Nelson (new term to run until 2016,) Ms. Miller (new term to run until 2015 and) Dr. Stofko (new term to run until 2013.)

Mr. Nelson made a motion to write a letter to the Selectmen to renew the terms for Mr. Nelson, Ms. Miller and Dr. Stofko. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Brady presented bill from the Hartford Courant for legal notices in the amount of 270.66. Mr. Nelson made a motion to pay the bill in the amount of 270.66 Mr. Rossi seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, upon a motion made by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Zirlis the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted

Rebecca J. Wonneberger