

CUMBERLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad Street

Cumberland, RI 02864

Meeting, Tuesday, March 20, 2012

OFFICIAL MINUTES:

A simple majority was declared and the meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Commissioners present were: David W. Balfour, Chairperson, Charles Seavor, Lester Hilton, Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane and Bruce Shepard.

Absent: Commissioners Ruth Bascombe (excused), Katie McKenzie, and Councilman Peter Bradley.

Presentation of prior minutes meeting (passed).

Open of Public Hearing: 7:40 PM

I. Update on Historic Houses for Sale in Cumberland-

No new information on any of the properties. However, Chairman Balfour has March 21, 2012 with Mayor McKee regarding historic store property adjacent to Town Hall.

II. Cemetery Report: Storm Damage-

Commissioner Hilton updated CHDC of the fallen tree problems that has arisen in many of the cemeteries following the recent wind storms. An estimate of \$ 4,600.00 was given for the damage in Quaker Cemetery (near the Arnold Mills Community House where a massive tree has fallen and broken several stones). A crane will be necessary to remove the tree according to Stanley Tree Service.

Commissioner Hilton already checked the town records. The cemetery is not listed as an asset of the Arnold Mills Community House so the town has the responsibility to clean and maintain it. The town has trees down everywhere (along highways, on town-owned property, in back of North Cumberland Fire Department, etc.) and it is noted that a tree expert should be hired for a town of our size.

Commissioner Hilton has contacted Department of Public Works and Town Planner's Office regarding the cemetery tree problem with no resolution.

St. Patrick's Cemetery has had many grave stones tipped over allegedly by vandals. Action: Commissioner Hilton will notify Councilman Bradley.

The historic cemetery in front of the high school has a broken granite marker. A school custodian broke it when mowing the grass. A Smithfield group may be able to fix the Quaker Cemetery stones and the high school marker. Councilman Bradley will contact people from Smithfield regarding the stone repairs. Commissioner

Hindle Koutsogiane contacted school department regarding the repair/replacement of the granite marker. The Superintendent's office replied to repair or replace the marker and forward the bill to the school department for payment.

Action: Chairperson Balfour will mention the need for a tree expert to the Mayor on March 21, 2012 meeting.

Old Business:

I Update on Creation of a National Register District in Diamond Hill-still awaiting word from Mr. Malloy regarding meeting date. No new info.

II. The vote on the Blackstone Valley National Park will take place soon in congress. Chairman Balfour attended a conference on topic. No new info on passage.

**III. The RI Historic District Conference on April 21, 2012 will be at the Historic Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket. All members of the Cumberland Historic District Commission are urged to attend. Funding should be secured through the town for conference fee of \$40/person. Planner's Office has not responded to Chairman's request.
Action: Please notify Chairman Balfour if you plan on attending.**

New Business: Commissioner Seavor has notified Chairperson

Balfour that he will be moving out of state by June 1st, 2012.

Action: Chairman Balfour will notify the Mayor's Office, requesting a replacement commissioner be appointed who is also an architect (as is Commissioner Seavor).

Adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, EdD

Recording Secretary

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