

CUMBERLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad Street

Cumberland, RI 02864

Meeting, Tuesday, January 17, 2012

OFFICIAL MINUTES:

A simple majority was declared and the meeting was called to order at 7:55 PM.

Commissioners present were: David W. Balfour, Chairperson, Katie McKenzie, Lester Hilton, Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane and Councilman Peter Bradley.

Absent: Commissioners. Charles Seavor (excused), Ruth Bascombe (excused) and Bruce Shepard.

Presentation of prior minutes meeting (passed).

Open of Public Hearing: 8:00PM

I. Reappointments to Historic District Commission-

All commissioners have been re-appointed by the Cumberland Town Council. However, Commissioner Seavor has

notified Chairperson Balfour that he may soon be moving out of state due to health reasons.

Action: Chairman Balfour will send a letter to Mayor's Office (when Commissioner Seavor has an actual moving date) requesting a replacement commissioner be appointed who is also an architect (as is Commissioner Seavor).

II. Update on Historic Houses for Sale in Cumberland-

Colonial Cottage (735 Nate Whipple Highway) may belong to a bank if not sold by February (per owner Karen Bergevine) ; 44 Angell Road; 140 Angell Road (all have had their sale prices reduced).

Other houses still for sale are: 12 Rawson Road (built in 1890); 807 Mendon Road (built in 1910); 349 Scott Road (a theatre built in 1900); 96 Abbott Run Valley Road (built in 1875) and 1571 Mendon Road (Elizabeth Rogers House, c. 1898), a home that has been for sale a number of times in the past few years.

Action: Commissioner Hindle Koutsogiane will get more information from Ms. Bergevine for State Historic Preservation Commission which may assist her in the sale of her home.

IV Cemetery Report: Storm Damage-

Commissioner Hilton informed 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 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.

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.

Action: Commissioner Hilton will contact Department of Public Works and Town Planner regarding the cemetery tree problem.

Commissioner Hindle Koutsogiane will contact school department regarding the repair/replacement of the granite marker. Chairperson Balfour will mention the need for a tree expert to the Mayor when he next sees him. Councilman Bradley will contact people from Smithfield regarding the stone repairs.

Question: Other than Nine Men's Misery, are there any historic cemeteries on property where proposed town center will be located?

Old Business:

I Update on Creation of a National Register District in Diamond Hill-still awaiting word from Mr. Malloy regarding meeting date.

II. The vote on the Blackstone Valley National Park will take place soon. More information will be forthcoming.

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. More information will be forthcoming.

New Business: None.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, EdD

Recording Secretary

