

CUMBERLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad Street

Cumberland, RI 02864

Meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 2013

OFFICIAL MINUTES:

A simple majority was declared and the meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

Commissioners present were: David W. Balfour, Chairperson, Councilman Jeffrey Kearns, Commissioners Katie McKenzie, Bruce Shepard, Ruth Bascombe, John Robinson and Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane.

Also present: George Dumont of the Cumberland Planning Department.

Absent: Commissioner Lester Hilton

Call to Order: 7:45 PM (Due to Town Hall being locked and therefore inaccessible until 7:40 PM)

Opening Remarks by Chairperson:

Presentation /acceptance of prior meeting minutes-approved

Reports: Old Business:

Report on Listing of Cumberland Historic Cemeteries- Commissioner Hilton had compiled an eighteen page definitive listing of the town's cemeteries and their locations/conditions. Editing is complete and was sent in June 2013 to Mr. Caricfero (Cumberland Planning Department) for publication along with the Commission's Guidelines for Historic Preservation on the Town of Cumberland website. As of this date, nothing is posted

Action: Commissioners Hindle Koutsogiane will contact Planning Department as to why neither has been placed on the town's website. Additionally, an inquiry needs to be made as to why none of this commission's minutes are posted on the State Attorney General's website. This is a direct violation of the open meeting law. .

Historic Properties for Sale in Cumberland: Renewed Concern about Alerting New Owners about Commission and its Role.

Several properties are no longer listed for sale, whether they are sold and/or taken off market is unknown at this time. Property at 3748 Diamond Hill Road, a two family built in 1880, has been sold and the new owners have painted exterior.

Hearing: St. John Episcopal Church, 1509 Mendon Road: on partial demolition/rehabilitation of Parish House

Swearing in of Jordan Durham, General Contractor, Peter Gill Case of Truth Box, Inc, architects, and Dr. Linda Farrington, Owner/Compassionate Care Clinic and new owner of the two properties formerly known as St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish House.

After discovering the partial demolition of the property on 1509 Mendon Road, a Cease and Desist Order was issued and a request made to the above to appear before the Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Petitioners had contacted Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission which should have sent them on to the Cumberland Commission. Petitioners spoke about their desire to keep building as close to historic character as possible. Demolition was necessary because of condition of building. Commission requested information regarding windows, siding , signage, etc. Suggestions from the commissioners also included a cement sidewalk rather than a wooden walkway and lighting away from the building rather than directly on it to minimalize "vinyl" look of siding.

Motion was made and passed: Based on our comments, the

Commission requests that the Petitioners come back to the commission with their exterior finishes, facade design, lighting, trim, signage, ramp and access information.

Commissioner Bascombe excused at 9:20 PM.

Motion was made and passed for Petitioners to finish the roof and the installation of vinyl windows (samples were provided) to the building before the winter weather sets in.

Motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, EdD, Recording Secretary