

**TOWN OF NORTH SMITHFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Minutes of January 16, 2013

A meeting of the North Smithfield Historic District Commission was held on
Wednesday, January 16, 2013
in the Greenwood Room at 6:30 PM
at the North Smithfield Public Library, 20 Main Street, Slatersville, RI

Call to order: *6:38 pm*

Members Present: Elizabeth Martin, Jeffrey Harris, Jeffrey Fontaine, Daniel Couture

Members Absent: Gwen Cunningham, Linda Frye, Christian de Rezendes

Materials Distributed: Agenda, Minutes, Preservation Brief (47)

Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2012

Approval for the minutes from the November 19, 2012 was unanimously approved.

Applications

- A. No applications to review at this time.

Communications

- A. As part of the Commission's continued 'Education Series', Jeff H. submitted to members a copy of Preservation Brief (47): Maintaining the Exteriors of Small and Medium Size Historic Buildings, by Sharon C. Park, FAIA, for the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service.
- B. Jeff H. informed the members of the upcoming Third annual "Open Government and Ethics Training" being held in North Smithfield for all Council, Board, Commission and Committee members is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 3:00pm at Scouter's Municipal Hall, 13 Main Street, Slatersville, RI.
- C. Jeff H. informed the members of "The 28th annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference" has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013 in West Warwick, RI.
- D. Jeff H. briefed the Commission members (re: legal review of recent approval and adoption of the NSHDC's Rules and Regulations) on conversation with Nancy Letendre, Associate of Ursillo, Teitz and Ritch, Ltd., Counsellors at Law, whose concentration is in litigation, land use, historic preservation and municipal law. Her expertise and guidance was sought in addition to a standard review by the NS Town Solicitor. She replied that she is willing to review the documents and provide a written legal opinion, but doing so would cost the Commission \$500.00 in attorney fees. Jeff F. reminded the Commission members that it currently has no budget. The Commission acknowledged that the seeking of expert guidance in historic preservation legal practice was a noble effort, but conceded the cost was too much, and as agreed

- to previously, to have the new Town Solicitor review the documents. Jeff H. will assemble an up-to-date set of documents for review.
- E. Notice from Town Clerk on January 10, 2013 of a new member appointed by the Town Council: Christian de Rezendes. Christian was unable to attend this meeting and Jeff H. read a brief introductory statement prepared by Christian for the members.

Old Business

- A. Status Update: Proposed informational letter to all property owners within the Union Village Historic District: Jeff H. sought a reply to letter emailed to Town Administrator on 11/09/2012 (she replied 11/16/2012 with a promise to read and get back to us). Her response on 01/15/2013 was inconclusive and not related to the specific questions of logistical issues to overcome with the proposed letter. Jeff H. will follow up again with Town Administrator for resolution on how to proceed with this.
- B. Status Update: Communications with Town Solicitor on legal review of proposed informational letter to all property owners within the Union Village Historic District. Town Administrator forwarded a copy of the proposed letter to the Town Solicitor for his review. Town Administrator replied to the Commission Chair that "the Solicitor replied that he has no problem with the letter."

New Business

- A. Subcommittee Report: Union Village Historic District Research Committee
 - 1. Research continues; Jeff H. has requested any documentation from research previously done by Louise Belisle, and Dan C responded that he has information to add from the research he has conducted to date. Jeff F. responded that the members should divide up equally the remaining properties to review, and then fast track all information to the following meeting to have a workshop to review and organize all findings. Jeff H. will propose initiative on the next Agenda. All results to be assembled into a concise formatted binder for distribution among all members.
- B. The Annual Nomination and Election of Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary was tabled to next meeting due to a lack of quorum.
- C. The Nominations and Appointments to new subcommittee: Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission for Certified Local Government Grant (CLG Grant Committee) was tabled to next meeting so more members could be available for input and consideration.
- D. The Nominations and Appointments to new subcommittee: North Smithfield Historic District Commission Standards and Guidelines (NSHDC S&G Committee) was tabled to next meeting so more members could be available for input and consideration.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was called to a close at 7:45 p.m.

Motion: Daniel Couture
Seconded: Elizabeth Martin
All in favor
Opposed: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 27, 2013