

Historic Review Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2023, 6:30-7:30 pm

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Held at the Historical Society Office at the Easton Public Library.

Present: Elizabeth Boyce, Phil Doremus, Peter Howard, Bruce Nelson, and Frank Pagliaro and Christopher Hull via Zoom.

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called at 6:32pm. (Elizabeth/Phil)

2. Review of minutes from October 20, 2022; approved unanimously.

3. Review of Historic List: Bruce leads us through a review of the master list of historically structures once again to ensure there are no omissions. Peter noted that the assessor, Rachel Maciulewski, is marking field cards to indicate historic structures. Peter will make sure she has the most recent copy.

4. Discussion: 100 Crossbow Lane circa 1850 and 210 Westport Road. Difficulty opening the CTDA website in the Historical Society, possibly issues with library internet.

Concerning the barn at 53 Kachele Street..Peter points out it is a unique example of the craftsmanship of local builder Will Tressler who constructed three barns in town utilizing a homemade SIP panel assembly.

Discussion regarding the Demolition Delay Ordinance and its coverage of subsidiary historically significant structures such as barns. Frank reminds us of the Harry Audley and Will Tressler historic barn inventory and the online state resource that includes many significant Easton examples. Bruce notes it is not comprehensive and there are historic barns in Easton that do not appear in the registry.

<https://connecticutbarns.org/find>

Mention of the Paine Barn that was removed from Easton but has not yet been reassembled in Windham County by John Baldwin as promised in his 2010 Barn Grant application. Group decides that for the next meeting we will assemble a town barn list for discussion and reference.

Demolition by neglect: How can we best prevent historic structures from deterioration when no one is caring for them. The example of 358 Westport Road is brought up. Once an old schoolhouse, it has been demolished. Bruce points out there is only a fine for demolition without a permit, but perhaps a fine should be considered for neglect.

Peter highlights the process in Westport following state statute regarding permits to construct or alter buildings.

Elizabeth suggests we try to keep an open dialogue with property owners so that we can document buildings scheduled for demolition and suggest ways that materials can be adaptively reused for recycling.

Phil questions if barns are taxable structure and Frank asks if they get tax abatement for historic or agricultural status. We will follow-up on these questions for our next meeting.

Regarding the upcoming Planning and Zoning Committee meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth asks if we have any recommendations as they review the 2018 Plan that is now midpoint in its 10-year span. Phil suggests that it might be sensible to incorporate the current list of historic structures into their conservation and development plans in map and list form. All agree.

5. Public Comment: None present.

6. Adjournment: Meeting called at 7:28 pm. (Phil/Frank)

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Boyce March 8, 2023.