

Historic Review Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

(A discrepancy between the posted time (6:30-7:30 pm) and an email reminder (6:00-7:00pm) lead us to start the meeting at 6 pm)

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

1. Call to order:  
Meeting called at 6:02 pm.
2. Review of minutes from the Special Meeting called on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
No amendments or changes requested. Peter Howard makes a motion to approve, Phil Doremus seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously.
3. Discussion in regard to the demolition of the 433 Center Road.  
Peter pointed out that foundation stones and timbers have been saved by the owners for future use. Everyone is in agreement that if a house is lost that this is a good example of repurposing building materials. Peter indicated that there were some unique features to the house's windows, and he was able to save one of the gable windows that has a particularly unique structure. It has a square sash but curved glazing as well as a curved casing/frame. There were also interesting and unique locking mechanisms with notches in the jambs. Bruce Nelson suggests it might be something to preserve and display in the Historical Society's barn.
4. Discussion of properties:  
875 Black Rock Turnpike is a Dutch Colonial cottage dating to 1917 and 266 South Park Avenue is a significant structure that was built to serve as the caretaker's house for the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company's dam at the Easton Lake Reservoir. Both were used early on by the water company for employee housing. Arthur and Gladys Bush used to live in 266 South Park Avenue. Bruce points out that Gladys was a significant resident in Easton history, and she served as the tax collector for over 17 years. Both properties are currently owned by Aquarion.  
Discussion regarding 29 Bibbins Road that has a historically significant barn. It was once part of the 32 Bibbins Road parcel along with the original house. Once owned by the Boyd family, Morely Boyd of Westport has inquired as to whether or not the barn has historic designation. He noted to Bruce Nelson that his parents cared and restored the structure over 30 years ago.  
  
Peter Howard called for a vote to add all three buildings: 875 Black Rock Turnpike, 266 South Park Avenue and 29 Bibbins Road to the list of Historic Homes in town. All in attendance voted in favor. Motion passed.
5. Updates, Questions and Discussions:  
Bruce has checked on separate parcels in town with barns but will double check on some that may have been overlooked. Frank Pagliaro reminds us of the detailed study conducted by Will Tressler and Harry Audley that is available online. Phil Doremus feels we should research historic barns and ensure they are protected. All committee members will review the Tressler/Audley list and consider any other barn structures of historic importance. Bruce would like to add to our March 2024 discussion the barns adjacent to 440 and 848 Black Rock Turnpike.
6. Public Comment: None
7. Adjournment: Meeting called at 6:44 pm by Peter Howard. Seconded by Elizabeth Boyce.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Boyce September 14, 2023.