

Town of Wallingford
Wallingford Historic Properties Commission
45 S. Main St.
Wallingford, CT 06492

Minutes

Meeting 3/9/09
Room 116, Town Hall

1) Meeting called to order 7:30pm

Present: (reg. mem) Candice Brashears, Robert Beaumont, Cheryl Christie Collett, Peter Fresina, Barbara Sibley; (alternates) Tara Knapp, Rosemary Rascati.

Absent: Linka Lewis (alternate).

2) Overview of properties:

Discussed images of Johnson and Royce properties recently taken by Beaumont.

Johnson Mansion: Discussed -

- Continued deterioration of the barn. The commissioners hope the owner plans to repair the barn in the very near future before it succumbs to the same fate as the now demolished Blakeslee House. Commission has previously informed owner, Wallingford Historic Preservation, Inc., about "Barn grants" available through CT Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Anticipated restoration of wrought iron fence / stone support wall. No application or discussion regarding C.O.A. has yet been initiated by owner.

Royce House: Owner informed Commission that a C.O.A. application was forthcoming in spring.

3) Review/assessment of *Blakeslee* C.O.A. project:

During the approved dismantling project in Nov. 2008, the Blakeslee House collapsed due to a weather event and subsequently demolished due to safety concerns.

- Commission determined that most of the conditions and requirements of the dismantling C.O.A. approval have been met, with exception given to extenuating circumstances due to the untimely collapse.
- One condition of the project was to leave the site clean and free of debris, storage materials etc., so the new owner (state or town) is not met with unwarranted cleanup expenses. Discussed who might examine the site now that winter is nearing its end and the property is becoming accessible. If any storage material or unwarranted debris etc. is identified, a letter will be sent to owner regarding their plan for removal.
- Beaumont said that town attorney, Janis Small, is working on the property transfer (per original deed restrictions) and he noted that the town may wish to retain it. Per state regulations, the Blakeslee site remains in the jurisdiction of the HPC regardless who owns it even though the house is no longer there. Beaumont noted that if the town became owner, the town would have to file for certificate of appropriateness to the HPC the same as any owner. If the state became owner, they trump determinations of the HPC and therefore C.O.A applications become irrelevant.
- Sibley asked who notifies the state and federal officials that a National Register property is no longer in existence. Brashears thought the building department was to notify the state

preservation officer (SHPO) as part of the demolition permit process, but unclear if they did so because the required 90 day delay of demolition was not applicable due to safety concerns. Brashears had already notified the SHPO of the C.O.A. approval for dismantling and removal in Oct. 2008. The state is responsible for notifying the federal government. The SHPO receives a copy of the HPC annual report, which will identify the demolition and removal of the house. Brashears noted that Blakeslee was individually listed on the Register for architectural and archaeological criterion and the archaeological criterion would apparently remain intact.

- Sibley commended the chair and commissioners for its work during a challenging year.

4) **Motion** by Beaumont (Sibley second) to recommend Peter Fresina for re-appointment to his existing regular member seat which is expiring. All voted unanimously to approve.

Item Added)

Motion by Beaumont (Knapp second) to include adding approval of meeting 1/26/09 minutes to the agenda. All voted unanimously to approve.

Discussed minutes and made corrections as necessary.

Motion by Beaumont (Collett second) to approval minutes as amended. All voted unanimously to approve.

5) Commission reviewed annual report [draft B] and made any corrections as necessary.

Motion by Beaumont (Sibley second) to approve annual report [draft B] as amended. All voted unanimously to approve.

6) No public comment.

7) No new business.

8) **Motion** by Sibley (Knapp second) to elect current officers to continue for next year. Brashears, chair; Beaumont, vice-chair; Collett, clerk. All voted unanimously to approve.

Motion by Beaumont (Sibley second) to adjourn. All voted unanimously to approve.

Adjourned 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candice Brashears, Chair