



WEST HARTFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town Hall - Room 312
Monday, 27th January, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting - Minutes

Commissioners Present: Mitch Lewis, Chair/Secretary; Kevin Flood, Vice-Chair; Aileen Bastos, Member; Sherri Schwartz, Member; Brian Clemow, Alternate; Karl Fransson, Alternate; and Matt Schreck, Alternate.

Absent: Robert Garrey, Member.

Public: Finn Ashworth of the TPZ attended tonight's meeting.

Chair Lewis called the West Hartford Historic District Commission ("WHHDC") Regular Meeting of January 27th, 2025 to order at 7:32 p.m., then introduced the Board Commissioners to those in attendance and gave a brief description of the WHHDC's meeting agenda and procedures.

REGULAR MEETING

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of 28th October, 2024 was made by Mr. Clemow, and seconded.

Seated: Lewis, Clemow, Fransson and Schreck.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of 6th January, 2025 was made by Mr. Clemow, and seconded.

Seated: Lewis, Bastos, Flood, Clemow, Fransson and Schreck.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Election of 2025 Officers:

Chair Lewis introduced the matter of the annual election of officers for 2025 and asked Commissioners to volunteer nominations.

Motion to nominate Mitch Lewis as Chair was made by Clemow, and seconded.

Motion to reelect Mitch Lewis as Chair was made by Bastos, and seconded.

Seated: Bastos, Flood, Schwartz, Clemow, and Fransson.

Vote: The vote was unanimous in favor.

The **motion carried** and Chair Lewis will inform the Town Clerk's Office at the next earliest convenience.

Motion to nominate Mitch Lewis as Secretary was made by Clemow, and seconded.

Motion to reelect Mitch Lewis as Secretary was made by Fransson, and seconded.

Seated: Bastos, Flood, Schwartz, Clemow, and Fransson.

Vote: The vote was unanimous in favor.

The **motion carried** and Chair Lewis will inform the Town Clerk's Office at the next earliest convenience.

Motion to nominate Kevin Flood as Vice-Chair was made by Clemow, and seconded.

Motion to elect Kevin Flood as Vice-Chair was made by Fransson, and seconded.

Seated: Lewis, Bastos, Schwartz, Clemow, and Fransson.

Vote: The vote was unanimous in favor.

The **motion carried** and Chair Lewis will inform the Town Clerk's Office at the next earliest convenience.

Materials Review:

*** Proposed 2025 Meeting Calendar**

The WHHDC 2025 Calendar of Regular Meetings was acknowledged.

*** Commissioner Directory**

The WHHDC 2025 Commissioner Directory was acknowledged.

*** WHHDC Website Content including: Handbook, and COA Application Form**

The WHHDC Website Content was acknowledged.

Commissioner's Report on WHHDC Expansion Opportunities:

Chair Lewis shared with the Commission a marked up detailed Town Map including numerous historic or architecturally of merit properties as designated by the State Historic Preservation Office "SHPO" as sourced from their website ConnCRIS GIS page. Commissioner Bastos has volunteered to connect with SHPO to validate their WHHDC properties listing and moreover, to begin researching a list of meaningfully historic properties from which to begin considering expanding the WHHDC footprint to include.

Finn Ashworth expressed a keen interest in this topic and volunteered to reach out to both Dr Tracey Wilson, Town Historian and Jeff Murray, Associate Town Historian, to get their input and thoughtful opinion around compiling a list of historic candidate properties to share back with the WHHDC. He also mentioned there being a Town GIS System of Historic places which we'll be looking to gain familiarity with.

Commissioners Concerns:

The topic of the Belden House, located at 139 Mountain Road, one of the oldest properties in town was brought up, including it's multiple recent ownerships, unfulfilled renovation work and in general it's neglected and uncared for state and possible uncertain future. WHHDC has discussed on occasion the deteriorated state of this State Register Individually Historic (but not WHHDC designated) Property.

Finn Ashworth shared archival articles he researched concerning the Belden House's historical significance, historic documentation, past ownerships, including an earlier relocation and renovation within town.

Commissioners Bastos and Schreck have agreed to draft a letter intended for publication to raise awareness for the significance of this house and the need to ensure it's sustained future. Too, there'll be a call to action for homeowners asking them to reach out to the WHHDC to proactively volunteer their properties or neighborhoods for possible inclusion candidates in the WHHDC's historic district/individual property expansion efforts.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:25 p.m. by Mr. Clemow, and seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be held on Monday 24th February, 2025 in Town Hall Room 312 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Lewis".

Mitch Lewis Historic District Commission Chair/Secretary