



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Historic District Commission

29 North Street • P.O. Box 203 • Roxbury, CT 06783-0203

ROXBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2016

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.
Present: C. Haver, G. Miller, C. Raymond, W. Walker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 21 September meeting were accepted as submitted.

BUSINESS

PMO

The HDC discussed the material G. McTaggart sent re: Southbury's exploration of the issue of demolition by neglect. W. Walker remarked that the Plan of Conservation and Development highlights saving the rural character of the town. The HDC agreed that any Roxbury ordinance would focus only on the houses listed in the Survey. The unresolved issue is deterioration of historic houses when the owner cannot afford repairs. C. Raymond suggested that the town have a specifically set aside line item in the budget to finance repairs. The town would use the fund to make necessary repairs and place a lien on the house. At the sale of the house, the town would be repaid with interest. The initiation of such a fund would require the approval of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. It would probably be administered by the same bodies with input from the HDC. There was no discussion of the how much money would be available in this fund. The existing Small Cities Grant offers a program managed by a non-profit organization to offer interest-free loans for homeowners to make necessary repairs to a primary residence. This also involves a lien. The process is confidential and no one in town has access to the information provided by the applicant. The HDC unanimously approved a motion that W. Walker discuss with B. Henry the three options for preserving the town's historic houses from terminal disrepair: (1) a revolving fund as line item in the town's budget; (2) the SCG to save a specific house that the HDC has identified as endangered; and (3) the PMO which needs to be written as an ordinance by town counsel.

Roxbury Station

W. Walker completed the National Register nomination for the Mine Hill Distillery building. There is a reference to the building as a cigar factory in a diary "Time and the Land" by Michael Bell and Diane B. Mayfield. The diary was Col. A.L. Hodge's. W. Walker will track down the citation. The nomination form is now at the State Preservation office. The Station will be moved 8 feet inward on the property disqualifying it from tax rebate.

PUBLIC HEARING

Although there is a quorum for the meeting, two members (G. Miller, applicant and C. Haver, adjacent neighbor) must step down for the hearing, leaving the HDC one member short of a voting quorum. The public hearing is postponed until the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgette Miller

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The next meeting of the HDC is:

Wednesday 16 November 7:30 pm Roxbury Town Hall.