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OFFICE OF THE
LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Minutes – Regular Meeting – November 12, 2015

Chairman Hurd called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM at the Vernon Historical Society.

1.0 Roll Call - Members present were Hurd, Quinn, Saucier, Nelson and alternate Reudgen. Iacobello entered during the meeting. Absent was Nicholson. Also present was Economic Development Coordinator Shaun Gately who also serves as Interim Town Planner.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Regular Meeting – October 8, 2015. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Quinn, seconded by Reudgen and voted in the affirmative with Hurd, Nelson, Saucier, Reudgen (sitting for Iacobello) and Quinn voting in favor of the motion.

3.0 Communications

No correspondence has been received.

4.0 Review of the PZC, ZBA, and Demolition Applications

4.1 Application of the Town of Vernon for Waiver of 90-day Delay of Demolition at Amerbelle, East Main Street, Grove Street and Brooklyn Street in the Rockville Historic District. Interim Town Planner Gately presented a detailed review of the proposal to demolish more than half of the mill structures on this site. The long vacant buildings are in fair to poor condition and include some of the newer buildings of the mid-20th century. The river will be exposed, the site remediated of hazardous materials and the groundwater monitored for a year. The State of CT has awarded a \$4.5 million grant for this project. The foundation wall will remain on the south structure as there is not sufficient funding to permit the probable necessary clean-up if the foundation were to be removed.

The Daniels Mill rear addition (98 East Main) is also slated for demolition as the roof is near collapse and the structure is in poor condition. This may be a bid alternate.

The State of CT Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has responded to the demolition plan with recommendations for the mitigation of the loss of the structures: 1. Documentation of the proposed buildings to be demolished as to their history and relationship to the Town of Vernon. Copies to be made public and submitted to SHPO. 2. Resulting report presented at a public forum event. 3. Remaining mill buildings be made weather-tight and walls and roofs protected. Those with structural integrity issues should be addressed immediately. 4. Capital improvement to the remaining buildings should follow the Sec. or the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Quinn, seconded by Saucier to waive the ninety-day delay of demolition period for the following buildings on the site of 104 East Main Street, 5 Brooklyn Street and 98 East Main Street: 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 (Amerbelle site) and rear structure of the Daniels Mill if it is to be included in the project. The motion was unanimously approved with Hurd, Nelson, Saucier, Iacobello, and Quinn voting in favor.

4.2 Application of William E. Dowty, III, on behalf of DHD LLC, owner of 49 Franklin Street, seeking a waiver of the 90-day Delay of Demolition to demolish the existing two family residence. After review the members determined that the 1900 area house is a simple vernacular residence and offers no insight into local history which cannot be found elsewhere in Rockville. The condition appears to have serious structural damage due to fire and is not suitable for rehabilitation. A motion was made by Quinn, seconded by Iacobello and unanimously voted to waive the ninety-day delay of demolition period for 49 Franklin Street. Voting in favor of the motion were Hurd, Nelson, Quinn, Saucier and Iacobello.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Study of the Strong Farm, War Memorial Tower, Lucina Chapel and Hockanum Company House: No report

5.2 Tour of the Hockanum Mill – Proposed date to tour the property: December 5, 3:00 p.m.

6.0 New Business - none

7.0 The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

~~DRAFT FOR APPROVAL~~ *cel*

Carol S. Nelson, Secretary

Carol S. Nelson

Date Approved: *Dec 10, 2015*