



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Historic District Commission

*William Childress, Chairman
Barbara Harms, Vice Chair
Jan Furman, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov
302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-395-3131

*Diane Aldi DePaola
Laura Gray
Alternate Members
Richard Peters
Alan Cantor
Paul Knierim*

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook**

Public Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98163391842?pwd=YUJOVmNBVEtwNm8zT2hiT0Q3R1FTdz09>

Meeting ID: 981 6339 1842 Meeting Passcode: 302302

Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866

One Tap Mobile: <tel://9294362866,,98163391842#>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman W. Childress called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present in Person: William Childress, Chairman; Barbara Harms, Vice Chair;
Jan Furman, Secretary; Alternate Members: Alan Cantor, Paul Knierim

Members Absent: Diane Aldi DePaola, Laura Gray, Richard Peters

Staff Present: Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; Krista May, HDC Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting & February 23, 2023 Special Meeting

MOTION to approve the special meeting minutes of February 23, 2023, as presented;
Made by: Jan Furman; **Seconded by:** Alan Cantor; **In Favor:** W. Childress, B. Harms,
J. Furman, A. Cantor; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

With regard to the April 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes, B Harms suggested that page 3 be amended to add that W. Childress wrote the letter to residents in the Historic District. She also asked that - under VI New Business A – the sentence be amended to state that the colors of the interpretative sign are blue and yellow.

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2023, as amended;
Made by: W. Childress; **Seconded by:** B. Harms;
In Favor: W. Childress, B. Harms, P. Knierim; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None.
APPROVED: 3-0-0.

B. Correspondence

L. Wacker received a letter from the OS Historical Society asking for a donation to keep their campus in good repair and provide exhibits. A discussion followed concerning donations. P. Knierim asked if HDC could support their programs in October. If money is available, HDC might consider supporting one of their projects. L. Wacker will confirm what funds are left for financial year. W. Childress will respond to the letter he received.

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports

L. Wacker reported that annual letter to district residents was mailed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Historic Ghost Sign interpretive sign – D. Aldi (not present)

B. Harms spoke with D. Aldi DePaola. Diane received the price list and sizes. There is plenty of room to put up a sign at the location. Permission to erect a sign there is not required by Land Use. L. Wacker did not locate a survey for the property but the survey for The Kate indicates that the island belongs to the building owner. No permission from the town is needed but permission from the property owner is required. W. Childress offered to contact the building owner but he might want to know the size. Different sizes and base style determine price. B. Harms suggested that this process might take some time. We have to provide text, logos, etc. There is also a question about who installs. Lynette will find out. P. Knierim feels comfortable to use HDC money for the Ghost sign. J. Furman added that members of the public might not know the significance of the sign and its importance to the town. This sign should match other educational signs nearby with a consistent appearance. More to be discussed at the June meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. “2023 Comprehensive Update to the Plan of Conservation & Development”

Petitioner: Old Saybrook Planning Commission

ACTION: Review draft plan and report to the Planning Commission by June 1, 2023

L. Wacker directed the commission to the Historical and Culture Resources section.

W. Childress commented that the document was well done and comprehensive. A. Cantor was impressed. L. Wacker explained that other commissions have been taking some time to read the document and send comments to one commission member to compile all comments together and send them to Land Use for forwarding to Planning. Deadline for feedback is June 1.

A discussion followed about the section that stated that HDC is lead organization for the demolition policy statement. Demo delay was proposed a few years ago and the idea was abandoned because it does not offer a solution. Members agreed this should be removed from the draft update. A. Cantor commented that educating the person who owns a property to be demolished about the historical significance of the site would be helpful.

There was a discussion about outreach to new property owners. This is being done in the North Cove Historic District. There was a discussion about extending efforts outside of the district.

There was a discussion about the HDC's mission to promote awareness and education townwide. "Enhance awareness by providing support for owners and educational resources as a certified local government" could be an additional policy.

W. Childress left the meeting at 6:30pm.

L. Wacker asked the commission members to review the document and send her comments in time for the June 1, 2023 deadline.

Historic House Tour will take place on Saturday, June 24th from 10am – 3pm. Tickets are on sale at Historic Society. Five homes and three gardens will be featured.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm until the next regular meeting of Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 at 6:00pm. **Made by:** J. Furman; **Seconded by:** B. Harms; **In Favor:** B. Harms, J. Furman, A. Cantor, P. Knierim; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED ANNUAL
HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street

Check our website for dial in information and additional meeting documents.

[Historic District Commission web page](#)

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