



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
Mary Kennedy*

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Town Hall 1st floor conference room

302 Main Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

B. Harms called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present – Barbara Harms, Diane Aldi DePaola (remote), Alan Cantor (seated for Jan Furman), Richard Peters (seated for William Childress), Mary Kennedy (joined at 7:07 remote); Laura Gray (joined at 7:13 remote)

Members Absent – William Childress, Jan Furman

Land Use Department Staff – Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; C. Maharbiz, HDC Recording Clerk (remote)

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. **Minutes** – 9/28/21

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 28, 2021 as presented; **Made by:** D. Aldi DePaola; **Seconded by:** A. Cantor; **In Favor:** B. Harms, D. Aldi DePaola, A. Cantor, R. Peters; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** none **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

B. Correspondence

B. Harms mentioned that HDC received a letter from the Old Saybrook Historical Society regarding renewal. HDC needs to send in a check to renew membership.

MOTION to renew membership in the Old Saybrook Historical Society; **Made by:** D. Aldi DePaola; **Seconded by:** A. Cantor; **In Favor:** B. Harms, D. Aldi DePaola, A. Cantor, R. Peters; **Opposed:** None; **Abstained:** none **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports – none

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Historic Ghost Sign** – Continue discussion of Phase 2 restoration.

B. Harms provided a recap of the Arts Fair table set up to promote the Ghost sign. HDC received approximately \$226.60 in cash plus \$100 check. She also stated that L. Gray posted in Historic Old Saybrook and Must be From Old Saybrook sites. With respect to the Patronicity site, L. Wacker reactivated the site on October 13 and there are a few donations so far. B. Harms explained the following regarding donations: \$50 and up will receive a written thank you card with a photo of the Crowley sign, \$200 will additionally receive a bookmark with the 1912 poem from Joe Cone and recognition on Facebook, and \$500 will additionally receive recognition on the HDC website. B. Harms stated that thank you cards have been ordered for \$1.82 each, which have a picture of the Crowley sign on the front and the HDC logo on the back. She asked for volunteers to help with personally signing the card. R. Peters, D. Aldi DePaola, M. Kennedy agreed to help. B. Harms also stated that the electronic billboard has been applied for; the extra banner with the Patronicity site is up; she visited the Estuary center to give them a flyer and to request an article in their newsletter; she posted flyers at Walt's and Acton Library; and she will post at the Chamber of Commerce. L. Wacker suggested that information be included in Economic Development newsletter. A. Cantor volunteered to post at Mirsina's and Beard Lumber, and L. Wacker agreed to make large flyers.

The Commission then discussed appeal letters. The total raised in phase 1 was \$10,230 from 94 donors. Forty-eight of those donors received letters and about a third of the money came from letter recipients. HDC mailed 742 letters. B. Harms suggested mailing to the individuals that donated previously with a handwritten personal note. HDC members agreed. R. Peters, D. Aldi DePaola, and L. Gray agreed to write handwritten notes. Barbara made a letter appeal to the Rotary Club, but has not heard back yet, and will also be making an appeal to the Historical Society at their December meeting. L. Gray will send a letter to the Exchange Club. B. Harms and L. Gray will both sign a letter to the Lions Club. The current status is approximately \$1330 in the account plus \$900 so far from Patronicity for a total of \$ 2229.80.

D. Aldi DePaola discussed her research into selling items to raise funds. She looked into 2 different tote bags and a mug. After discussing the potential money that could be raised, the decision was made not to sell items, but to brainstorm individuals to add to the mailing list. A. Cantor suggested a public visual with a thermometer to show how many more donations are needed. R. Peters said he could make one.

With respect to the issue of getting a preservation easement, B. Harms stated that W. Childress will contact the building owner. The members then discussed obtaining a rendering of the sign and the scaling of the sign. B. Harms concluded by stating that she will communicate with Canning to obtain a rough representation. L. Wacker suggested posting a comment on Facebook to request if anyone has old pictures of the building.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. until the next regular meeting of **Tuesday November 16, 2021**, **MADE by** R. Peters; **SECONDED by:** L. Gray; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Harms, D. Aldi DePaola, A. Cantor, R. Peters, L. Gray, and M. Kennedy; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.