



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Historic District Commission**

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

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
860-395-3131

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

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Hybrid Meeting  
Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room  
302 Main Street

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman W. Childress called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present** – William Childress, Barbara Harms, Laura Gray, Diane Aldi DePaola (remote) (not seated), Alan Cantor (seated for Diane Aldi DePaola), Jan Furman (joined at 7:05).

**Members Absent** – Richard Peters

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

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**A. Minutes**

W. Childress pointed out that the vote on the adjournment should not include Mary Kennedy, who was not seated, and be changed to reflect a 5-0-0 vote rather than 6-0-0.

<p><b>MOTION</b> to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2021 as corrected; <b>Made by:</b> L. Gray; <b>Seconded by:</b> B. Harms; <b>In Favor:</b> W. Childress, B. Harms, L. Gray, A. Cantor, J. Furman; <b>Opposed:</b> None; <b>Abstained:</b> none <b>APPROVED:</b> 5-0-0.</p>
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**B. Correspondence**

L. Wacker provided the invitation to the annual party of the Old Saybrook Historical Society at the Hart House on December 12.

**C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports**

W. Childress announced that Mary Kennedy has requested not to be reappointed as a member. HDC can make suggestions to the Board of Selectmen about who to appoint in her place. W. Childress requested that all members think about who to ask.

L. Wacker reported on a letter regarding 69 Cromwell Place that states that once work began, it was discovered that the structure is not going to support the renovation, so an engineer determined that the structure needs to be reinforced. Based on the engineer's letter, the owners applied for an exception from the Building Department, which was granted.

L. Gray mentioned revisiting the possibility of a demolition delay ordinance.

#### **D. Election of Officers**

<b>MOTION</b> that the Historic District Commission slate of officers remain the same; <b>Made by:</b> B. Harms; <b>Seconded by:</b> L. Gray; <b>In Favor:</b> W. Childress, B. Harms, L. Gray, A. Cantor, J. Furman; <b>Opposed:</b> None; <b>Abstained:</b> none <b>APPROVED:</b> 5-0-0.
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#### **E. 2022 Meeting Calendar**

Discussion was had about leaving the meetings on Tuesdays or moving them back to Thursdays and the decision was made to leave them as is.

<b>MOTION</b> to accept the 2022 Historic District Calendar as presented; <b>Made by:</b> L. Gray; <b>Seconded by:</b> J. Furman; <b>In Favor:</b> W. Childress, B. Harms, L. Gray, A. Cantor, J. Furman; <b>Opposed:</b> None; <b>Abstained:</b> none <b>APPROVED:</b> 5-0-0.
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#### **IV. REGULAR BUSINESS - None**

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Historic Ghost Sign Update**

B. Harms discussed efforts to get a better idea of what the sign will look like and making it more historically accurate. She stated that she communicated with Cannings and they now understand that HDC wants the letters of both signs to overlap. However, she is still working on determining what else to have on the sign. Cannings stated that they may be able to see more lettering if they can put more coats of consolidation fluid. They have already put two coats and plan to do another coat in the coming week. Additionally, Wayne Harms used enhancement techniques on a photograph to determine additional lettering, which shows the following words: Hardware, Household Goods, Fruit, Dry Goods, and some additional miscellaneous letters. B. Harms stated that for the blank space that cannot be deciphered, she thinks it is acceptable to fill in with words that could have been there, relying on historical records. She also posted on Facebook to request any additional research into discovering what was on the sign. L. Gray reached out to someone that can look for advertising and articles in microfiche of The New Area newspaper for

1907-1945. Cannings will need to know what HDC wants included on the sign before they can do a mockup.

R. Peters made a display board for the thermometer and once the sign is printed, the thermometer will be placed in the vicinity of the sign. B. Harms also stated that the owner of the building has given permission to remove any vegetation in front of the sign. R. Peters and A. Cantor volunteered to cut down the plants.

To date, \$4,695 has been donated. The appeal letters produced good donations. Patronicity campaign will run through December and after that, donations can still be received at the Land Use office. B. Harms will be meeting with the Historical Society Board on December 14 and the Rotary Club on January 5. L. Gray emailed two individuals of the Exchange Club and is awaiting responses. Thank you cards will be sent to donors of \$50 or above and bookmarks for donors of \$200 and above. Donors of \$500 will need to be recognized on the HDC website, which L. Wacker stated she can do. Additionally, Erin Sliva plans to produce t-shirts with the Stokes store logo and will donate any profits that are made.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. until the next regular meeting of **Tuesday January 18, 2021**, **MADE by** W. Childress; **SECONDED by**: A. Cantor; **VOTED IN FAVOR**: W. Childress, B. Harms, L. Gray, A. Cantor, J. Furman; **OPPOSED**: None; **ABSTAINED**: None; **APPROVED**: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk