

Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
Minutes
October 25, 2006

- I. Chairman Phil Miller called the meeting to order at noon in the newly renovated Durham Town Hall. Selectman McLaughlin provided a delightful lunch of wraps and chips. Chairman Miller called for round table introductions.

II. Guest

Chairman Miller introduced Chairman Jeffrey E. Muthersbaugh, Chairman of the CT Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Muthersbaugh introduced Executive Director Helen Higgins, and Board members Lynn Frederickson of Madison and Sara Dodson of Killingworth and Historian Don Malcarne of Essex.

The CT Trust for Historic Preservation is a private-non-profit created by a Special Act of the General Assembly in 1975. Among the members of the CRVCEO, only Old Lyme has attained the status of being a Certified Local Government. Ms. Friedman explained the Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants that are available from the Trust under the Ambassador Program.

The Trust is currently converting the inventory provided by the previous survey into electronic form.

The Trust is able to provide money and advice to local groups. Two Field Representatives, referred to as Circuit Riders are available to give on site opinions.

Glenn Reyer mentioned that Chester is updating the Plan of Development. This provides an excellent opportunity to incorporate references to properties as identified in the State historic inventory.

Essex Historian Don Malcarne asserted that the survey was done in the 1980s and needs to be improved and updated. Much of the information was taken from the assessors' records which are necessarily historically accurate.

Tony Bondi suggested that there should be notes in the Assessors' records regarding historic property. He noted that the stay on demolition only provides a 90 day delay. He suggested that Selectmen work with their Planning and Zoning Commissions to encourage preservation. Haddam is working on restoring the building formerly used as a county jail. The current plans would require an investment of 3 ½ million dollars.

Tony asked that it be included in the record that acquisition by the state is not a guarantee of preservation. State Agencies acquire buildings and allow them to deteriorate. The Trust agrees. Acquisition should include funds for preservation. Mr. Muthersbaugh referred to the original Connecticut Trust as a private non-profit formed by the state to serve in a statutory partnership with the Connecticut Humanities Council. He suggested that groups interested in specific projects apply first to the CT Trust for planning money and then to the State Preservation Council for grant money.

Mr. Muttersbough referred to the State Historic Use Inventory. He explained that to effectively defend a property it should be recognized in both the state and federal registry.

There was a discussion of the difficulties encountered when forming Historic Districts. Jeff Muttersbough encouraged the use of the National Register of Historic Register Districts. It gives recognition to areas worthy of consideration without incorporation as many restrictions.

Members of the LCVCEO were encouraged to assure. Their State Representatives and Senators that the money given by the State to the CT Trust is being well used.

It was agreed that public information is essential. Chairman Miller urged members to contact the Trust and to assist in updating the lists.

III. Minutes

Brad Parker moved that the minutes of the September 25 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Phil miller and unanimously approved.

IV. Business

A. Legislative Report

Betty Wagner announced that the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act has been signed.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

B. Next Meeting

Chairman Miller announced that the next speaker will be Dr. Jerry Silberg of the Water Partnerships. He will be explaining Storm Water 2 and the extensive stewardship that is necessary.

Tony Bondi announced that due to Thanksgiving, the meeting will be held on November 15 in the new Haddam Firehouse.

C. Future meetings

Chairman Miller that future speakers will include potential Grantors and W. David LeVasseur, Undersecretary of Intermunicipal Affairs at the Office of Policy and Management.

D. Smart Power

Jon Brayshaw announced that Middlefield has joined the Smart Power initiative. They have created a template for private signups that he will share with other members.

E. Local Control

Tony Bondi expressed his concern about strong federal government vs. the states, town control vs. the state and regulatory power vs. voluntary compliance.

He would like to discuss the matter with representatives of the state legislature. He is particularly concerned with the possibility of a Health District

being mandated and the need to find a part time Zoning Enforcement Officer or Wetlands Enforcement Officer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Bergren, Secretary