

CHENEY BROTHERS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2019
HEARING ROOM – LINCOLN CENTER
5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Lynne Ferrigno, Co-Chair; Bettye Kramer, Co-Chair; Leslie Frey, Secretary; William Farley, James Quaglia, Mary Ann Handley, Deborah Starkel, Starr McLean, Bruce May, Tom Ferguson, Mary Dunne, and Jack Prior, Ex-Officio

Also Present: Gary Anderson, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Judith Schuberth, Senior Administrative Secretary

Members Absent: Rita McParland

I. Adoption of the Minutes of October 18, 2018

Ms. Ferrigno called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Mr. May made the motion to adopt the minutes and Mr. Ferguson seconded. Ms. Ferrigno asked if there were any changes to the minutes and members suggested several grammatical and typographical changes. All members voted to adopt the minutes as corrected except Ms. Handley who abstained.

II. Old Business

Sottile Drawing of Cheney Hall

Mr. Anderson said the Planning Department is now in possession of the drawing and a work order has been issued to have the painting hung in the hearing room. Members agreed to remove this item from future agendas.

III. New Business

1. Election of Officers

Ms. Ferrigno asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Ms. Handley nominated Ms. Ferrigno and Ms. Kramer for the positions of Co-Chairs, and Mr. Quaglia seconded the motion. Ms. Ferrigno asked for any additional nominations for Chair, Mr. May nominated Mr. Ferguson for the position of Chair, and Ms. Frey seconded the motion.

Ms. Ferrigno called for a vote in favor of Ms. Ferrigno and Ms. Kramer for the positions of Co-Chairs. Ms. Handley, Mr. Quaglia, Ms. Ferrigno, Ms. Kramer, Ms. Dunne, Ms. Starkel voted in favor. Mr. Farley abstained.

Ms. Ferrigno called for a vote in favor of Mr. Ferguson for the position of Chair. Ms. Frey, Mr. May, and Mr. Ferguson voted in favor. Mr. Farley abstained.

Ms. Ferrigno and Ms. Kramer were elected as Co-Chairs by majority vote.

Ms. Ferrigno called for nominations for the Secretary position. Mr. Ferguson nominated Ms. Frey as Secretary, Ms. Kramer seconded.

Mr. May questioned the title of Secretary and asked if a title of public relations, or correspondence secretary was more appropriate. At the request of Ms. Kramer, Mr. Anderson reviewed the Commission's Rules of Procedure and said the Rules list a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary.

Ms. Ferrigno asked for any more nominations for the position of Secretary. Seeing no more nominations, Ms. Ferrigno called for a vote. Ms. Frey was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.

2. Adoption of the 2019 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Ferrigno confirmed with Ms. Schuberth the dates listed on the schedule were all the third Thursday of the month. Mr. Ferguson said the 5:00 p.m. start time for meetings can create conflicts with his hours of employment and asked if 5:30 p.m. would be better for members. In response to a question from Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Dunne said she leaves work early and Mr. Farley said he is usually five to ten minutes late for the meeting. Mr. Anderson said the meeting start time is up to the Commission and that staff would attend their meetings no matter what time they are held. Ms. Schuberth said she would check on the availability of the Hearing Room because other committees may meet after the Cheney Commission.

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve the schedule, noting the meeting time may be moved from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at a future meeting. Mr. Quaglia seconded and all members voted in favor.

IV. Communications

Ms. Ferrigno asked Mr. McLean to introduce himself and tell the Commission a little about himself. Mr. McLean said he is an administrator for a local Century 21 real estate office and that he is excited to serve on the Commission and to identify qualified properties for historic preservation awards.

Mr. Anderson reported that 99 Hartford Road had been placed on the market, with the potential conversion as an inn noted within the listing. Mr. Ferguson mentioned the current owner of another Cheney mansion is interested in viewing the property. Ms. Kramer said she spoke with a previous owner of the 99 Hartford Road and the owner conveyed regret regarding the ongoing issues with the property. Ms. Ferrigno asked Mr. Anderson if he had spoken with the owner regarding the damaged pillar along Hartford Road. He said had, and the owner told him it would be repaired. Ms. Frey noted the pillar has not yet been repaired and Mr. Anderson said he would again check in with the owner.

Ms. Frey reported that Mr. Wilks resigned from the Commission because he is moving from Manchester. Ms. Kramer said that Susan Barlow's schedule for Thursdays has changed, that she is the Town Historian, and that she would like to return to the Commission. In response to a question from Mr. Ferguson regarding Ms. Barlow's party affiliation, Mr. Quaglia said that party affiliation should not matter on this Commission and that Ms. Barlow is very qualified, she is the Town Historian, and she has a desire to be on the Commission, he said. Mr. Anderson said that Commission appointments are made by the Board of Directors and the local Town committees can forward potential names for consideration.

V. Committee Reports

Historic Preservation Awards

Mr. May said the nomination deadline for Historic Preservation Awards is April 6, 2019. He said a home at 655 North Main Street and the home next to the South Methodist Church should be considered. Ms. Frey said the home 388 East Center Street should be considered as it has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation. Mr. Ferguson asked what the criteria are for historic preservation consideration. Ms. Ferrigno asked Ms. Schuberth to send the criteria via email to the members.

In response to a question from Ms. Ferrigno, Mr. Prior said he will ask the Historical Society's board members at the next meeting for a volunteer to work with the Cheney Commission Historical Preservation Award sub-committee.

Ms. Frey said she will prepare a press release regarding nominations for the preservation awards to the newspapers in the coming weeks.

VI. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Quaglia moved to adjourn. Ms. Frey seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.