

City of Norwich
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Norwich City Court

October 22, 2012
7:00 PM

Present: R. Mirabito, D. DeForest, L. Bunce, M. Stewart, S. Prentice, H. Graves

Absent: None

Staff: T. Dreyer, J. Lawrence, A. Donnison

Also Present: Don Windsor, Kevin Doonan (Evening Sun), Dan Palmer

I. Call to Order:

Chairman R. Mirabito called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. S. Prentice made a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2012, seconded by L. Bunce. Ayes all.

II. Comprehensive Plan Historic Resources Review:

Todd Dreyer distributed copies of draft proposed revisions of the Historic Resources portion of the Comprehensive Plan as part of the ongoing project to update the plan section by section. Part of this draft was noting that in 2008 a study was commissioned to inventory all the city's historic and architectural building resources which T. Dreyer stated has been very useful to him in his dealing with SHPO. It is a 2 volume set and he showed one of the books to the members so they could get an idea of what went into creating and how it is useful. D. DeForest asked if anyone could have access to the books and was told yes, anyone could foil them or have a copy of the same info on a disc. It was also noted that the City Historic Preservation Committee that was formed in 2006 by Mayor Maiurano had created a Historic Preservation Ordinance. This ordinance was not recommended for adoption nor was it forwarded to the Common Council for adoption. T. Dreyer noted that at the time of the proposed historic ordinance 99 survey letters were sent out to property owners that may be affected by the proposed ordinance and he received 6 replies, 3 favorable and 3 unfavorable. T. Dreyer also noted that The new Walking Tour of Norwich was updated with a donation from Giltner's. H. Graves asked who is responsible for the upkeep of the markers along the Canal Walking Tour. Don Windsor stated that the NYSDOT takes one sign out at a time and refurbishes them as they have the time and money. NYSDOT is like all others in that they are under budgetary constraints and canal signs are not a priority but they are slowly repainting them. M. Stewart stated that it was not the 200th anniversary of the Courthouse but rather the 175th. M. Stewart also inquired as to what is the benefit of being on the National Historical Registry. T. Dreyer stated that tax credits are one of the primary benefits. It was noted that at this time the City is without a City Historian and a Records Management Officer making it even more difficult to access photos, maps and related documents. L. Bunce suggested that perhaps the City could use a college librarian student to bring the cataloging of the records up to date. T. Dreyer also noted that the map that was produced to accompany the 2008 Historic and Architectural Resource study was hand

drawn and needs to be setup on the city's GIS system as soon as it is up and running. Don Windsor stated that himself along with other volunteer historian have written 4 books about various things in the county. Mr. Windsor noted that when Thomas Knapp passed away the city lost one of its most knowledgeable historians. Mr. Knapp had even gone so far as to read every city newspaper edition since it was published (it is now on microfiche) in the early 1800's and believes he got as far as the 1880's. Mr. Knapp's family has 2,500 pages of his notes and Mr. Windsor has encouraged the family to compile the notes and to write a book about his research. Mr. Windsor discussed other projects he has been involved with as well.

T. Dreyer reviewed the rest of the handout document and noted that it does not have to be a building to be on the National Register of Historic Places. For example it could be a cemetery, boats or parks. T. Dreyer asked for the commission members to review this document again and asked that if they found any typographical errors to please contact him.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 19, 2012 and the segment of the Comprehensive Plan being reviewed will be Regional Issues.

D. Windsor noted that throughout the City there are very few "talking" points left behind such as corner stones of demolished buildings, hitching posts, parts of the old railroad buildings, etc and asks that we try to keep anything old in place for future reference.

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm on a motion made by D. DeForest and seconded by S. Prentice. Ayes all.