

TORRINGTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST
BOARD MEETING, March 13, 2013

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Torrington Historic Preservation Trust was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 in the Torrington Historical Society Carriage House. Present were: Linda Beyus, Ed Cook, Travis Lipinski, John Manson, Bruno Bagnaschi, Ed Cannata, Mark McEachern, Marc Trivella, Chuck Perret and Gail Kruppa. Ed Cook, President, called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: Linda B. offered a correction to the minutes: she did not offer to assist with the organizing of work parties, as noted in the minutes. Mark M. made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Mike Boe seconded the motion. So voted.

President's Report: Ed Cook reported that there has been press in the newspapers and on cable regarding the THPT and its acquisition of Skee's Diner. Ed noted that he has been emphasizing the mission of the THPT with regard to the diner. Mike Boe has also received calls from some reporters.

Treasurer's Report: Mark M. reported that the Trust has recently collected \$275 in dues from board members which leaves the organization with a balance of \$641.55. Mark also informed the group that the Torrington Historical Society has offered to donate \$6,000 to the THPT for the Skee's Diner project.

Website Sub-Committee Report: Linda updated the group about the status of the website and Linda commented on the nice, clean appearance of the site. The domain name, preservetorrington.org has been saved and will be the official website for the Torrington Historic Preservation Trust. The next website meeting will focus on writing text for the website. In an effort to get the website up as quickly as possible, the committee has decided that it will go live even if it not fully completed. Eventually, the website will include historical news articles regarding former activities of the THPT. The website will have a separate tab for Skee's Diner which will link to another website dedicated to Skee's Diner: skeesdiner.org. In addition, the domain name, skeesdiner.com has been saved and will be available for the future business that operates the diner. Ed Cook noted that Ed Cannata has paid for the domain names under his own personal account; this is in lieu of his dues payment.

Update of recent activity: Mike Boe reported that he met with Susan Strand regarding the issue of lead in the soil/contamination and also contacted Torrington Area Health. Torrington Area Health stated that they do not "sample where there is grass". Mark M. interjected that the agreement states that we must remove lead on site. Ultimately, the church wants a clean site. Ed Cook, Mark, and Mike met with Michael Magistrali to over the agreement. There was much discussion about liability and responsibility for any potential contamination.

De-construction subcommittee findings: Travis, John and Ed met at the diner to discuss what needs to be done. A supply list has been compiled, a tentative work schedule established. The group needs to remove windows, mark them and wrap them; remove loose paint. However,

there are also liability issues before we start working. Volunteers need to sign a “hold harmless agreement”. Ed Cannata will document the process of moving and restoring the diner.

Preparation: Scheduled item required for move:

Mike stated that Marty Marola would like to meet with the diner consultant next Tuesday to discuss moving the diner. The telephone wire needs to be disconnected; Travis volunteered to take care of that issue. The Trust also needs to bring a plumber in to remove the air-conditioning units. Mike offered to check and see if a city permit is required to move the diner. A temporary fence is also needed around the diner/work area; Bruno Bagnaschi offered some fencing for this purpose. We need to get permission from the Chamber to allow Michael Magistrali to speak with the church on their behalf. Regarding the ongoing contamination/clean-up issues, Marc Trivella questioned how much of the property around the diner is on state land? Good question. Mike Boe will look at the site plan to get the answer to this question. In the meantime, Mark will call Danny Stoughton to see if he can remove the top 6” of soil from the site.

Open Floor: Travis reported that this coming Saturday, March 16th, he, John and Mike will be working at Skee’s. Other board members offered to work on Saturday as well. Some of the work will likely include removing light fixtures, removing the open sign, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marc Trivella; seconded by Bruno Bagnaschi. All in favor, so voted. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Kruppa