

Minutes  
Historic Properties Commission  
Special Meeting  
February 11, 2016

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
WATERFORD, CT

16 FEB 16 AM 10:15

TEST: *David L. Conner*  
TOWN CLERK

Call to order by Chairman John O'Neill at 7:05 p.m.

Present: John O'Neill, Eileen Olynciw, Debra Walters.

Absent: Vivian Brooks, William Whelan.

Also present: Robert Nye, Municipal Historian; Martha Shannahan, The Day.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the job specifications for the proposed Town Hall window replacement project.

Town Hall is one of Waterford's most historically and culturally important places and the town should take advantage of the opportunity to restore the windows, one of the most important defining elements of any building, to their original appearance.

Concerns were raised about the lack of transparency in the planning of the project; why a building committee had not been established since this project as well as other proposed Town Hall projects were well beyond the scope of "maintenance"; why the Historic Properties Commission and the Municipal Historian were excluded from the planning; and why the town previously accepted unacceptable work on the front entryway.

Further discussion focused on edits and revisions to a memo to the First Selectman proposed by the Municipal Historian which expressed many of the same concerns raised above.

THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to forward the memo as revised to the First Selectman and to attach the memo to the meeting minutes to be filed with the Town Clerk.

Motion and second by O'Neill and Walters to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.  
Voting in favor: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Nye  
Municipal Historian & Recording Secretary

TO: First Selectman Daniel Steward  
FROM: Historic Properties Commission & Municipal Historian  
DATE: February 11, 2016  
RE.: Town Hall Building Committee proposal

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TEST: *David L. Angelo*  
TOWN CLERK

The Historic Properties Commission is very concerned about the proposed Town Hall window replacement project. It seems that little respect is being given to the historic and aesthetic importance of this building.

The proposed project presents a one-time opportunity to restore architectural and historic integrity to the former Jordan School and seat of town government since 1984. Indeed few elements of a building contribute more to its architectural character than do the windows.

This building is one of Waterford's most historically and culturally significant places. It deserves respectful treatment. Listing in the Connecticut Register of Historic Places could well depend on restoration of the original window openings. (Listing in the Register would qualify the town to apply for grant funding).

The building's centennial is only two short years away, a cause for celebration of the older of the two remaining consolidated schools (the other being Cohanzie School which continues to face an uncertain future). It served Jordan area children for more than 60 years. It was designed by Waterford resident Louis H. Goddard and featured in the April 1919 issue of Architecture: The Professional Architectural Monthly. (Additions completed in 1926 and 1956).

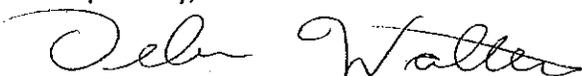
As Waterford Town Hall the place should be a source of civic pride. It should inspire respect if for no other reason than for the important business that is conducted there, and that that business is important to every Waterford citizen. It is, after all, their town hall. It belongs to the public.

For the above reasons, the specifications for the Town Hall window replacement project should be discussed in a more open, transparent, and inclusive forum. The project is far too important and long-lasting to be treated otherwise. Given the scope of the other associated Town Hall projects consideration should be given to establishing a building committee to include at least one member of the Historic Properties Commission and the Municipal Historian. In the meantime the window project should be placed on hold.

A revision of the job specifications should include elimination of the transom/blocking below the lintels, restoration of the full height of the original window openings, reassessment of the "repair" treatment of the granite lintel(s), and elimination of the proposed installation of window screens.

The Historic Properties Commission and the Municipal Historian look forward to an initial discussion with you, the Facilities Maintenance Coordinator, and the Director of Planning and Development to discuss concerns and recommendations.

Respectfully,



Debra Walters  
HPC Corresponding Secretary