

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING OF JUNE 6, 2018
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Marc Salerno, Rose Ann Hardy, Daniel Cunningham and Paul Dagle.

Mr. Nickerson called the Public Hearing to consider the adoption of an Ordinance entitled "Demolition Delay Ordinance" and an Ordinance entitled "Amendment to Ordinance Concerning Smith-Harris House Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He reported that due to technical difficulties with the recording equipment, tonight's meetings will not be broadcast live on Channel 22 nor will there be a recording made and posted on the town webpage.

Mr. Nickerson stated that he caused to have published the Notice of Public Hearing in The Day on May 26, 2018.

Mr. Nickerson opened the public hearing to consider the Demolition Delay Ordinance, and stated that the purpose of this ordinance is to allow the Historic Properties Commission up to a 90-day window to delay construction in order to photograph and document historic properties before demolition. Ms. Barbara Johnson Low, Chairwoman of the Historic Properties Commission, spoke on this matter and stated that this would allow the Commission the opportunity to work with willing homeowners to make sure that any history available is documented, and is not meant to hold up demolition. If there is nothing to document the process will not be held up for the full 90 days.

With no one else to speak on this matter, Mr. Nickerson closed the public hearing regarding the Demolition Delay Ordinance. Mr. Nickerson then opened up the public hearing regarding the Ordinance Amending Ordinance Concerning Smith-Harris House Commission.

Speaking on behalf of this subject was Joanie DiMartino, Director of the Smith-Harris House. Ms. DiMartino gave a summary of their position on this matter and why they are calling for a name change, full text of which can be found as part of the Regular Meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen's May 16th meeting. Mr. Nickerson thanked Ms. DiMartino for her hard work on this endeavor, and called for anyone else from the public who would like to speak on this matter.

Mr. Al Littlefield, 84 Smith Street, stated that he is a long time supporter of the Smith-Harris House, and he does not understand nor see the need for a name change. Mr. Littlefield stated that this matter was not communicated to the public, and he asked that the Board of Selectmen table this matter to a future date in order to give the public more time to ask some important questions and share opinions on what if anything the name should be changed to.

FILED

June 11 2018 AT 1:30 AM/PM

Karen Yalton
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Ms. DiMartino stated that this was not a change that was taken lightly, and that she participated in a 2-year study which was mandatory before becoming eligible for this grant. She stated that she comes with a large amount of experience and expertise that previous Director's have not had, and would like to take the foundation that those previous members built and continue to build upon it.

Mr. Steven Marks-Hamilton, Member of the Historic Properties Commission, stated that they were not included in the process up to this point, and he would also like to see this matter postponed in order to get everyone on board and up to speed before making any changes.

Mr. Burt Hobby, current Historic Properties Commission member and former Smith-Harris House Commission member, addressed the Selectmen and stated that he also would like to see this matter postponed to allow for better collaboration.

Ms. Barbara Johnson Low addressed the Board of Selectmen and stated that she agrees that this matter should be tabled to allow for all of the historic commissions to collaborate before making any changes.

It was agreed that this portion of the public hearing would be closed and that further collaboration between commissions will take place on this matter.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery moved to adjourn the June 6th Public Hearings at 7:30 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Salerno. Motion Passed 6-0

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Anderson".

Sandra Anderson, Recording Secretary