

**EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 2009
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Paul Formica, First Selectman, Robert Kleinhans, Deputy First Selectman,
Rose Ann Hardy, Jack Hogan, Pamela Rowe, Rob Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Edward O'Connell, Town Counsel

EXCUSED: No One

Public Hearing on:

◇ **Ordinance Designating Historic Properties and Establishing an Historic Properties Commission**

Acting Chairman and Deputy First Selectman Kleinhans called this Public Hearing of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted that Mr. Formica would be a joining them shortly. He then asked Attorney O'Connell, Town Counsel to synopsize the Ordinance Designating Historic Properties and Establishing an Historic Properties Commission.

Attorney Edward O'Connell explained that this ordinance designates historic properties and also establishes a Historic Properties Commission who would then further designate historic properties by ordinance. A Historic Study Committee was established first some time ago and they prepared a report on historic significance and proposed an ordinance and a report for such purpose. The report was presented to various commissions for comments and this ordinance is a result of the final report and incorporates the various comments. He presented Item #1 - a reduced map of the Thomas Lee House property showing the First and Second parcels noting that the Statute requires that the legal description is contained within the ordinance. Item #2 is CGS 7-147r which defines the establishment of a Historic Properties Commission of five members. The historic property herein is the Thomas Lee House and the historic properties commission may from time to time initiate the designation of additional historic properties. He said that they would go through the same process to designate another property or properties as they could do more than one property at a time. He noted that Items # 3 and # 4 in the ordinance state how the members shall be appointed and that there shall be five regular members and three alternates and how they shall be appointed. Lastly, Item # 5 states that on the effective date of this ordinance that the East Lyme Historic Properties Study Committee shall be terminated.

Mr. Kleinhans asked if the Board had any questions –

Hearing none –

Mr. Kleinhans called for comments from the public –

Norm Peck, 32 West Main St. said that he is the President of the East Lyme Historical Society and that on behalf of the Society; he wholeheartedly supports this ordinance as it not only preserves historic properties but allows better access to available grant money. It is a pro-active ordinance and he urges them to pass it.

John O'Neil, 121 Great Neck Rd., Waterford, CT said that he recommends passage of the ordinance. This has elevated the history and importance of historic properties in Waterford where he resides and he said that he knows that it is a difficult process and with this one more step that they will have opened up to them, grant monies and other things of historic importance. He urges passage of the ordinance as it would be a wonderful asset to the Town of East Lyme just as it has been for Waterford, New London, Groton, Norwich and other Towns that have it.

Joe Mingo, 397 Boston Post Rd., asked if there is a difference between a Historic District and Historic Properties.

Attorney O'Connell said that a historic property deals only with a historic property as designated by the Board of Selectmen by Ordinance while a historic district is different as it is an 'area' that is set by a different ordinance.

Mr. Wilson said that he wanted to make it clear that a historic 'district' is like a street or larger area whereas a historic property is one property, so designated.

Ms. Hardy asked if they wanted to add another property, if they would have to go through the same process or could they do it as an amendment to this.

Attorney O'Connell said that they would have to designate it by ordinance and follow this procedure for each one or they could group more than one property on the ordinance, but it would have to be by ordinance following this process.

(Note: 7:20 PM First Selectman Formica arrived)

Mr. Formica asked if there were other comments from the public –

Luane Lange, 160 Pennsylvania Ave. said that she was the Secretary of the Historic Properties Study Committee which was formed in 2005. She noted that there is a process that the State Cultural Resources requires that they follow to designate a historic property.

Ms. Hardy commented that she hoped that those who were active on the Study Committee would indicate their interest to be appointed as members of the Historic Properties Commission.

Nancy Kalal, 80 grassy Hill Rd. said that she urges them to adopt this ordinance as it is a win-win situation for the Town.

Mr. Formica asked if there were any other questions from the Board –
Hearing none –

Mr. Formica closed this Public Hearing at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Zmitruk,
Recording Secretary, Pro-tem