



CITY OF STAMFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. Box 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904 -2152

(FINAL) Minutes of the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC)

Date: Regular Meeting held: November 7, 2017
Location: Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd. Stamford CT 06901
Board of Finance Conference Room - 4th Floor
Present: Lynn Drobbin, David Woods, Barry Hersh and Alternates: Rebecca Shannonhouse,
Elena Kalman

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to order (Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m.)

A motion was made to approve R. Shannonhouse and E. Kalman to serve as voting members for the meeting.

(The motion was moved by L. Drobbin and seconded by D. Woods, and carried unanimously.)

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 12 meeting. There were no changes to the minutes noted.

(The motion was moved by L. Drobbin and seconded by B. Hersh and carried unanimously)

III. New Business

A. State Project 135-331: Bridge #01350: Rehabilitation - on Rt. 137 over Rippowam River

This is a concrete T-beam bridge (1939) 250 feet north of the Merritt Parkway and near the Turn of River. It is near a lenticular truss bridge that is listed on the National Register. Participants: Mark McMillan representing the CT DOT on the bridge projects.

1. M. McMillan noted he has not completed the 3-A review. The original section of bridge is not visible any more. It is very close to the Merritt Parkway and is close to another lenticular truss bridge. The original bridge is mostly a culvert at this point. The rehabilitation will not have adverse impacts. They do not believe that it is historically significant. The report will be available in the next two weeks. There will be a comment period and these projects are normally submitted to SHPO. The length of the culvert is over 20 ft. long therefore it is classified as a bridge. It is also about 24 ft. wide.
2. Judy Norinsky of HNP noted that she does not have photographs of this "bridge" as it is very hard to find and is not visible by a casual observer.



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Discussion

All generally agreed that this bridge may not require additional input from HPAC. It will be reviewed when the report is submitted.

B. State Project 135-332: Bridge #04067: Replacement at Cedar Heights Road over Rippowam River

This project was previously reviewed by SHPO and determined to have an "Adverse Effect." Participants: Mark McMillan representing the CT DOT on the bridge projects

1. M. McMillan noted that there was a public meeting about the bridge a couple of months ago. He also noted that the hydraulics of a flood stage condition forced a change in the design. Then there was some discussion about the taking of private property. He said, this is a city of Stamford project. It is funded by CT DOT and comes under Section 106 review. It will be widened to 45 ft. The design plans call for sidewalks to be added in the future. There are 4 properties that abut the bridge crossing. The property lines of these residential lots go to the center of the river. The property at the SW corner dates to 1938. The others date to the 1960's. The neighbors had some concerns about driveway locations. All properties will have access throughout construction. There will be temporary construction easements over the properties as they will be crossed by construction crews for the duration of the work. There is a little reconfiguration of the road. The road will be closed for 8 months.
2. The bridge will be built to address 100-year floods. The design reuses the existing stone. The parapet will have a concrete core with stone facing. The plans call for some more stone to be added. They intend to match the original. They are demolishing the original bridge. Mark also said that there may have been a "wire mill" in the area but there are limited records that indicate a mill at this bridge; thus the name "Wire Mill" Road.
3. Mark noted that the existing plaque with the original date of the bridge's construction will no longer be applicable, but may be saved. The Historical Society has requested to take the old plaque. L. Drobbin said that it would be more appropriate if it remained on site. Lynn also said that a new plaque should be created and installed in addition to the old plaque. Mark said that the patina of the original plaque should not be cleaned but retained as is. J. Norinsky added that the new plaque should also give some description of the new construction and say that it is reusing the original stone. She also noted that the side walk (maybe one only) is a good idea, if it can be done in the first phase.

Discussion

It was understood that Mark will be providing his report to the commission within a few weeks and HPAC will review and comment on this report at the December 5, 2017 HPAC meeting.



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C. State Project 135-334: Bridge #00032: Rehabilitation of I-95 bridge over Metro North RR

This bridge was constructed in 1958, and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Participants: Mark McMillan representing CT DOT on the bridge projects.

1. M. McMillan said that the closest street is Myrtle Ave. It is also close to the metro north railroad tracks. There is a State of Connecticut programmatic agreement for minor transportation projects where the elements of the interstate system are normally exempt from section 106 analysis/reports. CT DOT has the outlook that something major needs to happen to this bridge in the future, but extensive work does not need to take place now. The currently requested work is intended to ensure stability until further improvements or changes are made to I-95.
2. Mark further said that SHPO will recognize that there will be no impact to the surroundings. CT DOT will make sure there is no impact. It will not disturb the ground. The work will take place above ground and there is good access below the existing bridge. The report was handed out for general review and they will take comments from HPAC. He further noted that there will probably be no designation of "Adverse Effect".

Discussion

It was understood that Mark provided his report to the commission and HPAC will review and comment at the December 5, 2017 meeting with the other bridges that are under consideration.

D. State Project 135-336: Rehabilitation of State Street Bridge over Mill River

This project will rehabilitate an 1848 masonry arch bridge. CT DOT staff determined that the bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Participants: Mark McMillan representing CT DOT on the bridge projects

1. This early bridge is virtually intact and as Mr. McMillan's report noted. It is the last remaining bridge in Connecticut that was constructed by the New York and New Haven Railroad line prior to its consolidation. The only major alteration is the parapets that were added to the original in 1955. M. McMillan said this is mostly an "invisible" bridge. It is hard to find and to see. It is adjacent to two small parks. They will remove asphalt above the concrete deck. They will put down a waterproof layer and a new bituminous deck over the existing concrete. They intend to match the depth of the road bed as it is now.. There will be some replacement of missing stone of the arches and repointing that will be visible from the river. Mark stated that he will be the person to review the stone work. He normally does this with Jill Smyth for the Merritt Parkway bridges. He has the qualifications to review the masonry work for CT DOT.
2. Mark also noted there may be some documentation needed of the bridge, with a historic analysis of a sufficient level. He said he has not done the research to see if there is existing documentation. His recommendation to SHPO was for a "No Adverse Effect" finding. They intend to make it stable for the future. It should be considered as "in place improvement" to the existing.



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3. Lynn asked where this bridge was located in the queue for the bridge improvement projects. Mark said that the work itself may be two years out – scheduled for 2019. He also said that SHPO is looking at it, and does not know the timing for the review. It was sent to SHPO on September 27, 2017.

Discussion

It was understood by the group that Mark has provided his report to HPAC and the commission will review and comment at the December 5, 2017 meeting, along with the other bridges that are under consideration.

Mark asked what the procedures with HPAC will be going forward? He asked if HPAC has any comments and if the commission has established the review procedures? It was determined that HPAC will continue to review these projects. Mark will provide the reports for three of the bridges that were not submitted. It was generally agreed that commissioners will review the reports and bring comments to the December 5 meeting. The reports will be e-mailed to Lynn for distribution to the commission.

(It was determined that there was no need for a motion as the review will continue to the next meeting.)

IV. Old Business

A. State Project 0135-335: Rehabilitation of Main St. Bridge

Rehabilitation of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company's lenticular truss bridge. CT DOT presented the Section 106 review to HPAC in February of 2017. Mitigation measures are as discussed. Participants: Mark McMillan representing CT DOT on the bridge projects.

1. M. McMillan said he wants to provide an update of the status of this bridge project. It was reviewed previously in February of 2017. The survey said that the trusses can support the weight. There are other similar bridges in the state. More have been found and inventoried. He said there may be a dozen or so. There is another one, as noted above, in Stamford.
2. Mark said they are looking for suggestions about what mitigations should be included in the MOA. L. Drobbin said there should be an interpretive plaque. A plaque can discuss the history of the bridge, the Berlin Iron Company, and the Lenticular Truss design. It can also note how the bridge was saved and what structural improvements were made.
3. Mark said there will be removable bollards to allow pedestrian use and emergency vehicles as agreed with the city of Stamford. He further noted there is a consultant design in place for the bridge improvements. The change is that the 1930 installed piers will be removed and the bridge will function more like the original construction.
4. This project is still on the books to go out to bid at the end of 2018. It will need to fit into the schedule that includes other bridges in town.

(The item was tabled without further decision. Review of status will be on going)



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B. Other items

- 1. Reminder of meeting with SHPO on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.) in the Board of Finance Conference Room - 4th Floor.**

Mary Dunne will give a SHPO training session for members of HPAC and the City. The meeting will be 1 hour and Q & A will be 1 hour. Lynn asked for any questions/issues to be submitted in advance.

- 2. Demolition committee update of requests**

There were no items to update, at this time.

- 3. Status of surveys**

Cove

No update was provided.

Glenbrook

No update was provided.

East Main

No update was provided.

(The item was tabled without further decision. Review of status will be on going)

V. Adjournment

Lynn Drobbin adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Drafted by: David W. Woods AIA - Secretary - November 14, 2017
Stamford, Historic Preservation Advisory Commission

Meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7:00 p.m. in the 6th floor Training Room. The next meeting will be Tuesday December 5, 2017 in the Safety Training Room.