Attending:
C. J. Thomas, Chair
Joe Capodiferro
Brian F. X. Connolly
Christopher Fagan
Edward Giannaros
Peter Mastrobattista
Gary Palumbo

Kathy Blonski, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

D. Consideration of Special Topics

1. Presentations from the Hill-Stead Museum
The Chair introduced Dr. Anna Swinbourne, Executive Director and CEO of the Hill-Stead Museum; Lavell Thompson, Incoming Board President Hill-Stead Museum and Bill Watson, Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee. Dr. Swinbourne and Ms. Thompson reviewed the plans for the renovations of the historic carriage barn and makeshift theater in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the Hill-Stead Museum using the presentation recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item D-1. Dr. Swinbourne explained that the project’s goal was to partner with other institutions in the region becoming a cultural hub and to make the Hill-Stead a preeminent cultural destination in the country. The Council asked questions and congratulated the Hill-Stead on their project.

2. Town Manager Update

a. Discussion of the Strategic Plan
The Manager asked the Council to review the Strategic Plan that had been passed in January. She was reviewing and prioritizing the projects because of the budget changes and time devoted to COVID-19 management. She anticipated having to delay some of the projects and wanted the Council’s input in preparation of having the Strategic Plan on the June Town Council agenda for review and amendments.
b. COVID-19 Update
The Manager updated the Council on the Town’s status. The Phase One reopening plan for the State had begun and the Town was beginning to reopen and planning for an incremental opening of Town functions was being done and implemented. On May 21, 2020 the Manager and the Chair published an update for the Town residents, which was on the Town website. There was information on the Memorial Day Parades, the budget, the tax deferment program, the Farmington High School Building Committee, local business and social distancing. They also had done a video on the Rails-to-Trails discussing social distancing.

c. Memorial Day Parade
The Manager reported that since the parades had been cancelled the Town coordinated with the local veterans to have a ceremony that was aired online and on public access. She encouraged everyone to watch it.

E. New Business
There was no New Business conducted.

F. Executive Session
There was no Executive Session held.

G. Adjournment
Motion was made and seconded (Mastrobattista/Capodiferro) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Adopted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray, Clerk
75th Anniversary Capital and Endowment Campaign
Overview

The Historic Carriage Barn will be adaptively reused to create additional space to welcome visitors, present exhibitions and explore Hill-Stead's history.
New access to Makeshift Theater and Museum Entrance
Museum Entrance Hall Now
After
Gift Shop...

Relocated and enlarged shop will increase revenue through expanded inventory and strategically branded merchandise.
Historic Carriage Barn Now

Site of New Exhibition Gallery

Slide # 7
A state-of-the-art Gallery to present rotating exhibitions and programs, featuring artworks on-par with Hill-Stead’s magnificent art collections.
Ahead of Her Time
Architectural Work of Theodate Pope Riddle

Mary Cassatt
Artist, Friend, Advisor and Suffragist

Beatrix Farrand
Early 20th Century Landscape Designer

How Japanese Printmakers Inspired the Impressionists and their Contemporaries

Hiroshige, *Shower at Atake and the Great Bridge*, 1857

Whistler, *The Last of Old Westminster Bridge*, 1862, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
The Impressionist Collection of Alfred Atmore Pope
Reunited
13 Additional Artworks He Once Owned
The Drive Shed Now
After...
The Drive Shed transformed into the **New Media Space** to interpret the architectural, agricultural, and social history of the property.
A new doorway will provide direct access to the Makeshift Theater, and its space will be better suited to accommodate visitors and students participating in hands-on educational programs.
Adapted Floor Plan
Additional Project Details

• All interior spaces will be climate controlled and protected by a state-of-the-art fire suppression system.

• The New Media Space will be enclosed with barn doors to complement existing architecture. Doors may be fully closed to this space to accommodate light-sensitive exhibitions or remain partially open to welcome visitors.

• Glass doors will be added to the Museum Entrance and Entry Hall.

• Additional, accessible and ADA compliant restrooms

• Updated kitchen space optimized for catering services

• The existing paved parking lot will continue to accommodate all visitors and staff.
Project Timeline

• Construction begins – Summer 2020
• Phase I
  • Gift Shop
  • New Media Space
  • Stable Terrace
• Phase II
  • Makeshift Theater
  • Exhibition Gallery
  • Catering Kitchen
  • Accessible Restrooms
  • Main Entrance
• Targeted completion date – 2022*

*75th Anniversary of Hill-Stead as a public museum
Benefits to the Community

• Increase regional and national awareness for Connecticut’s “Hidden Gem” and its extraordinary art collection.

• Increased revenue from membership and attendance (new and repeat) helps Hill-Stead secure its future sustainability and the continued preservation of this National Historic Landmark and 152 acres of landscape.

• Creating a cultural hub, where Hill-Stead can collaborate with other cultural and arts institutions in the region while serving larger and more diverse audiences.

• Increase in tourism activity to Farmington Valley and Greater Hartford Area through high quality and engaging exhibitions and cultural programming.
75th Anniversary
Capital and Endowment Campaign

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM