

62ND ANNUAL MEETING

THE NEW HAVEN PRESERVATION TRUST

MAY 25, 2023, 6:30PM
ONLINE GATHERING

MEETING AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Call to Order: Rona Johnston, President
- 3 Introductory Remarks, Rona Johnston
- 4 Approval of the minutes of the 61st Annual Meeting
- 5 Approval of Financial Summary, presented by Glenn Trunkfield
- 6 Election to the Board of Directors, slate presented by Elsie Chapman
- 7 “Themes in Preservation,” a reflection by Sarah Tisdale, Director of Preservation

MINUTES OF THE 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

May 26, 2022 / Online, submitted by Jill Martin, Secretary

WELCOME

Rona Johnston, Board President, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Members voted to approve the minutes of the Sixtieth Annual Meeting, held online on June 17, 2021.

OVERVIEW OF YEAR 2021

Rona recounted a number of highlights in 2021 – a fuller account is available, she noted, in her printed letter in the Annual Report.

The year 2021 was the Trust’s sixtieth anniversary. The Trust hosted two anniversary events, both online.

For the Preservation Awards, the Trust looked back at innovations in 1961, its founding year. The Landmark Award was given to New Haven’s Central Fire Headquarters, the Merit Award to Conte/West Hills Magnet School, and the Housing Award to Newhall Gardens. The Margaret Flint Award was given posthumously to Carroll Meeks, first president of the Trust. A special anniversary award was presented to the Ethnic Heritage Center, honoring its dedication to New Haven’s cultures and histories.

The annual Celebration of Preservation was held in October 2021, with five short talks addressing the work of the Trust through six decades. In a recorded interview Marianne Mazan spoke about the early years. Susan Godshall then addressed two New Haven streets that are urban renewal successes; Preston Maynard spoke about the industrial

history of New Haven and the Trust’s publication Carriages and Clocks, Corsets and Locks; Christopher Wigren highlighted the Trust’s engagement with Modernism; and finally Jenny Scofield presented on how buildings and districts are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Two online talks garnered large audiences. Leah Glaser spoke on the Goffe Street Armory, putting history into historic preservation, and made a plea for community history. A second talk, by Lizabeth Cohen, co-sponsored with the New Haven Museum, was entitled “Saving America’s Cities: Ed Logue: New Haven and Beyond.”

Tours have long been integral to the outreach of the Trust. It added a virtual tour of Lynwood Place, as part of Jane’s Walk, and was also able to return to in-person tours: of a house on Townsend Avenue that is one of the oldest remaining houses in New Haven; of New Haven’s City Center around the Green, of the Quinnipiac River Historic District; and, for Docomomo Tour Day, a hard hat tour of the Pirelli Building designed by Marcel Breuer, which is being converted into a hotel.

Rona noted two major projects that the Trust has been involved with over recent years: while the c.1810 Pinto House is to be moved 90 feet to a new location on Orange Street, preserving its listing on the National Register, the Bigelow Boiler Factory could not be saved, a loss for New Haven’s industrial heritage and for the River Street Historic District.

As a popular feature in the Trust’s online outreach, Rona highlighted the informative

and attractive “ABCs of Architecture” that appeared throughout May/Preservation Month.

Elizabeth Holt stepped down as Director of Preservation Services in December 2021. Rona voiced her regret at the loss of Elizabeth’s dedication and professional skills and thanked her on behalf of the Trust for her three years of involvement with the organization.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Glenn Trunkfield presented the Financial Report for 2021, available in the Annual Report.

The Members voted to approve the Treasurer’s Report pending audit.

Rona thanked Glenn for his great and essential contribution as Treasurer.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Three Directors stepped down from the Board during 2021: Elizabeth Bickley, Edward E. Cherry, and Khalil Quotap.

Sue Jacobson, on behalf of the Governance Committee, presented the slates of new board members and of current members who have indicated they would serve a further term.

The Members voted to approve Oliver Gaffney, Betsy Grauer, and Michael Waters as Directors at the Preservation Trust.

The Members voted to approve Margaret Chambers and Channing Harris to serve a further term as Directors at the Preservation Trust.

Rona thanked Sue and the Governance Committee for their work.

PRESERVATION PROSPECTS

In her presentation, Rona announced that the Trust has been designing a new strategic plan, supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven and with the advice of consultant Nancy Alexander. One element of planning that particularly

intrigued her was the question of what kind of organization the Trust has been and the type of organization it could become. As a historian, she observed, she is particularly aware that saving places is about more than saving a building. Places come with people and memories, and they are embedded in communities.

To illustrate why history and community matter, Rona explored two examples from her own experience. For history she turned to an Art Nouveau church on the outskirts of Vienna, Austria, designed by Otto Wagner in the early twentieth century. This beautiful structure cannot be separated from the hospital buildings surrounding it, which were first an innovative psychiatric institution but became a site in the Nazi euthanasia program, where children were murdered. For community she cited an example from her hometown, Glasgow, in Scotland. A statue of the Duke of Wellington, celebrating victory over Napoleon at Waterloo, was erected there in 1844. Since the 1980s, the statue has worn a traffic cone, frequently removed but always replaced, in a display of city pride. Sometimes the traffic cone is decorated to mark a particular event. Communities make places their own, and preservation should respect the meanings they create.

At the end of her presentation, Rona stressed the Trust’s new mission statement: “We seek to rally our diverse city to embrace and champion its historic places and spaces.”

RECOGNITION

Rona thanked everyone active with the Trust and everyone who supports and encourages the organization. She noted the long list of supporters and donors included in the Annual Report, available on the Trust’s website.

The Members voted to adjourn.

NEW HAVEN PRESERVATION TRUST BOARD NOMINATIONS 2023

PROPOSED SLATE OF DIRECTORS

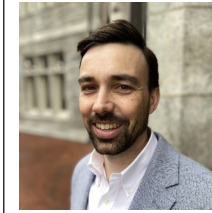
Wm. Frank Mitchell



Frank Mitchell is a cultural organizer in visual arts and public humanities. He is curatorial adviser for the Toni N. and Wendell C. Harp Historical

Museum at The Dixwell Q House and Curator at Large for The Amistad Center for Art & Culture. Mitchell has taught at the University of Connecticut, Trinity College, and the University of the Arts. His curatorial projects include the exhibitions Timeless: Telling Our Neighborhood Stories, Finding Freeman(s), The Nutmeg Pulpit: Hartford’s Talcott Street Church & Black Community Formation, Afrocosmologies: American Reflections, Beyond the New Township: Wooster Square, and Soulfood: African American Cooking and Creativity. Publications include the catalog Afrocosmologies: American Reflections, the anthology African American Connecticut Explored, and the culinary study African American Food Culture.

Jeremy Mudd



Jeremy grew up in Phoenix, Arizona where he developed an early interest in the built environment and urban planning and a love for midcentury and modernist architecture.

After studying urban planning in college, Jeremy attended law school in Washington, DC. He now practices real estate and commercial finance law in Hartford. Jeremy and his husband live in the East Rock neighborhood and are (slowly) restoring their triple decker.

Abigail (Abby) Roth



For the past five years, Abby has served as Director of Communications for Medical Education at Yale School of Medicine. Prior to this role, she was

Special Assistant to the Dean at Yale School of Management (six years), and Director of Alumni Affairs at Yale Law School (4.5 years). Before returning to Yale, where Abby attended college and law school, she spent two years clerking for judges and eleven years as a federal government lawyer, predominantly focused on firearms and explosives law and policy.

Abby is active with traffic safety advocacy, including around how we design our streets. She is on the Common Ground board and previously served as Ward 7 alder for six years. She loves learning about history and architecture, and believes preserving local history enriches cities.

DIRECTORS WHO LEFT THE BOARD IN 22/23

William (Bill) Christmas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the support of:

Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office



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