

20

**AD HOC REPORT
HISTORICAL PROPERTIES STUDY**

Chairman Jim Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. on October 22, 2008. In attendance were committee members Jack Knapp and Paul Rotello, Corporation Counsel Robin Edwards and Director of Planning Dennis Elpern.

Chairman Johnson stated the charge of the committee was to receive the report of the Historic Properties Study Committee for preservation and restoration of the Old Library and Connecticut Certified Local Government program.

Ms. Edwards said the mission of this committee is to adopt an ordinance that would designate the Old Library as an historic property. There are beautiful murals located in the building which are in need of repair. Once the ordinance is adopted the study committee would become a commission that has powers. The City would be able to apply for Certified Local Government status which would enable the City to apply for grants.

Chairman Johnson said the report states the committee has completed the requirements required by the Connecticut General Statutes, and has received endorsements from the Planning and Zoning Commissions and the state Historic Preservation Council.

Mr. Elpern said the restoration of the murals was submitted to the capital budget with a cost of \$34,867. There could be matching funds available from the state. The deteriorating masonry will cost substantially more at \$435,000. We could get some money towards that, although not matching funds as there's a cap of \$200,000. per project. Mr. Elpern also said the ordinance is specific to the Old Library property only.

Mr. Rotello asked if the state would have influence over the use of the interior space if the building is designated as an historic property. Mr. Elpern said no, it goes to the preservation of the structure

Mr. Knapp moved to accept the report of the Historical Property Study Committee, and to recommend to the Common Council they refer the matter to a public hearing regarding the adoption of the historic property ordinance to designate 254 Main Street as a historic property. Seconded by Mr. Rotello. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Knapp moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Rotello. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Johnson, Chairman

Jack Knapp

Paul Rotello