

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 9:30 am**

**MINUTES**

**Part 1: 9:30am – 10:45am – Microsoft Teams**

**Council:** Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Chairman Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Mr. Kent McCoy and Ms. Deanna Rhodes

**Absent:** Dr. Sarah Sportman

**Staff:** Mr. Cory Atkinson, Mr. Kevin Berger, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Catherine Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine Ms. Jenny Scofield, Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski

**Guests:** Ms. Alexia Belperron, Ms. Claire Calabretta, Ms. Amy Cole, Ms. Mary Dean, Ms. Renee Dumouchel, Ms. Mary Falvey, Dr. Mike Forino, Mr. Aaron Goode, Mr. Brenton Grom, Mr. Scott Gifford, Mr. Bruce Hall, Ms. Kim Hughes, Ms. Sandra Leubner, Ms. Shannon McKenzie, Ms. Jane Montanaro, Ms. Priyanka Panjwani, Mr. Cliff Parker, Mr. Todd Raymond, Ms. Pamela Serfes, Ms. Lyn Smith, Ms. Stacy Vairo, Mr. Jerry Toni

**I. Call to Order for Part 1 of Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Chairman Butkus read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

**III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest**

Chairman Butkus read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest and asked if there were any conflicts with staff members or Council. The following four members of Council recused from various agenda items:

- Ms. Acly recused herself from items: V.B.2, V.B.3, V.B.5, V.B.6
- Ms. Burgess recused herself from item V.B.1
- Ms. Carnell recused herself from item V.B.13
- Mr. McCoy recused himself from item V.B.11

#### IV. Review and Approval of Minutes and Transcripts

##### 1. Minutes – January 7, 2026 Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Council voted to approve the January 7, 2026 meeting minutes.

(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-3, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

#### V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

##### A. Unfinished Action Items

##### B. New Action Items

##### 1. Survey and Planning Grant, Preservation Connecticut, SFY 2026 Circuit Rider Program, Statewide

**\*Ms. Burgess was recused.**

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Ms. Acly, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Partner- In-Preservation Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended funding of this application.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation doing business as Preservation Connecticut  
Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Council approved the first portion of the Circuit Rider grant in the amount of \$150,000 back in July 2025. Due to concerns with State funding the grant was broken into two payments. Preservation Connecticut has spent the first part of their budget on staff and benefits and some technical assistance consultancies. They are ready for the second \$100,000. Ms. Jane Montanaro was on the call for any questions or concerns.

Ms. Carnell supported the application but noticed a technical error in the amount of funding.

Dr. Horowitz noted the importance of the Circuit Rider program and was happy to support it.

**2. Survey and Planning Grant, Grace Church Parish, Condition Assessment of church building, Old Saybrook**

**\*Ms. Acly was recused.**

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended funding this application.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Grace Church Parish

Amount: \$16,500

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The property is listed on both the State and National Registers. The applicant did get verbal quotes from several people, so there's a range of total project cost. She recommended that they ask for the higher end. The application originally came in with a range of asks, but obviously the Council needs to approve a specific amount. She suggested that they take the higher end just in case.

Ms. Burgess asked if there were matching funds to secure the project. Ms. Dunne replied yes, it was confirmed with the applicant.

**3. Survey and Planning Grant, The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC, Plans and Specifications for steeple, Plainville**

**\*Ms. Acly was recused.**

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council voted to award a Survey and Planning Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC

Amount: \$9,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. SHPO did give the applicant a Survey and Planning grant for a Condition Assessment for their steeple. They received a different Condition Assessment several years earlier, in which the steeple wasn't

addressed. They are going to use these plans and specifications to apply for an HRF grant, which I believe is upcoming with the next round of funding.

Mr. Elmore noticed there is a lot of steeple work in front of us and asked if it was due to the collapse in New London, from around a year ago. Ms. Dunne replied yes, Ms. Acly mentioned this would happen, so it was anticipated. She and Ms. Fink met with another church to walk them through the process to develop an appropriate plan. Steeples have been ignored due to their being hard to get to and maintain.

The following items are all **Historic Restoration Fund** grant applications:

**4. Wheeler Clinic, Inc., Perkins-Clark House. 49 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT. Project: Stucco repair. \$22,500.**

*On a motion by Mr. McCoy second by Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.*

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Wheeler Clinic, Inc.

Amount: \$22,500

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Wheeler Clinic seeks support for the preservation and repair of the historic exterior stucco of the Perkins Clark House. If left unaddressed, the deterioration will accelerate loss of historic material in the Gothic Revival building, increase repair costs, and risk disruption of vital healthcare services delivered within the building.

Ms. Acly asked about the root cause of the stucco damage and vertical cracks. The Wheeler Clinic decided not to have a consultant involved in this project. She feels a consultant should be involved to get the right specifications.

She does not know what vintage the stucco is and she would assume it's probably a brick wall behind. There should be a vapor open stucco assembly, and there were some suggestions with the paint that it was and some of the wording suggested more of a vapor closed type treatment. In some capacity, a consultant should at least review products and potentially be available when the stucco is removed. There are also some cracks in the brick below which look like a sensitive treatment to be cautious about.

Mr. Elmore asked if any other issue arose while examining the exterior stucco, will they be addressed? Ms. Fink responded that Ms. Amy Cole, and Mr. Todd

Raymond, Facilities Manager, have indicated they have the funds to address any other concerns that may arise.

Ms. Carnell noted the for many of the HRF applications coming up the amount requested was not \$22,500 it was \$25,000 and it seems like most of the grants are a little less or significantly less than the amount requested. Ms. Carnell wanted to note this for the record.

Ms. Fink mentioned in the executive summary that she prepared for Council, that there was a 10% cut to everyone's ask, except for Mystic Seaport and the Norwalk Lighthouse, so that more applicants could be funded. She did check with all the applicants to make sure that that wouldn't impact their projects, and they would be able to cover it. They all agreed they could.

**5. The Congregational Church of Thompson. 347 Thompson Road, Thompsom, CT. Project: Reconstruction of the rear wall, roof, and structural elements damaged by fire. \$180,000.**

**\*Ms. Acly was recused**

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended funding of this application.

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: The Congregational Church of Thompson  
Amount: \$180,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. This building was damaged by fire in 2016. The Congregational Church of Thompson seeks support for phase one of a multi-phase restoration at the Congregational Church. Phase One focuses on rebuilding and stabilizing fire damaged structural elements to make the building weather tight and structurally sound, laying the groundwork for future interior restoration and common reuse. Ms. Beth Acly has been working on the structural report and Ms. Lynne Smith has been working on the architectural report. Mr. Bruce Hall was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Ms. Burgess asked if there was a complete project budget for the full scope of work. Ms. Fink replied this is the scope for the exterior and the Applicant is expecting funds from Senator Blumenthal and working on other legislative funding. Hopefully for the future phases, they will have more federal funds to match state funds for the interior.

Mr. Hall replied, the total project is approximately \$2.2 million. Every day they wait, the costs would probably go up. They believe that they will finish the project and do currently have \$500,000 from an appropriation from their U.S. Senator, which is firm. They are going through architectural drawing reviews, so this would be \$680,000 and they also applied for a \$1.5 million Community Investment Fund grant in early December 2025. They were directed to go on that path versus applying directly for a bond with the Governor. They are hopeful about that and optimistic that the support keeps growing for the project and that they would get some or all of that funding. This would come very close to the total for the entire project which would include structural stabilization and interior features.

- 6. First Congregational Church. 355 Main Street, Cromwell, CT. Project: Repairs to structural framing and the building envelope of the bell tower to remediate leaking and continued structural damage. The project will also restore the historic main entry doors. \$179,660.**

**\*Ms. Acly was recused.**

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Mr. McCoy, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

*(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: First Congregational Church  
Amount: \$179,660

Ms. Fink presented this application. The First Congregational Church of Cromwell seeks support for Phase One of a comprehensive bell tower restoration project. Phase One focuses on structural stabilization and building envelope restoration of the bell tower, addressing active water infiltration and deterioration that threatens both the tower's timber framing and the historic sanctuary below. They did get a conditions assessment through a Survey and Planning grant and Ms. Beth Acly from Cirrus Structural Engineering has been working on this project. She will also stay on to work on subsequent phases.

- 7. Webb Deane Stevens Museum. 211 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Project: Complete roof replacement and masonry repair on the 1789 Isaac Stevens House, exterior painting and window reglazing on the 1752 Joseph Webb House, window reglazing on the circa-1700 Silas Deane House, and HVAC replacement in the Deane and Stevens Houses. \$170,592.41**

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, second by Ms. Rhodes, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Webb Deane Stevens Museum

Amount: \$170,592.41

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Webb Dean Stevens Museum, operated by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Connecticut, seeks support for a comprehensive preservation project addressing the building envelopes and mechanical systems of three nationally significant properties: The Isaac Stevens House, The Joseph Webb House, and The Silas Dean House. Addressing these systems comprehensively now, will prevent emergency repairs, reduce long term costs, and transition the campus from crisis response to sustainable cyclical maintenance.

Ms. Acly asked if the specifications were bid specifications for the purpose of the grant application? Ms. Fink replied they were for the purpose of the grant application and believe they also did get some additional funding for Preservation Connecticut to do some investigative work. Mr. Brenton Grom was on the call to answer questions or concerns.

Mr. Grom replied it depends on which part of the project Ms. Acly was speaking about. There was some money from Preservation Connecticut to get a structural assessment related to the roof replacement and that was initially prepared for the replacement they did last summer of the Joseph Webb House roof, which is now complete, but they assessed the Stevens House at the same time.

Ms. Acly asked if the specifications submitted for the grant will be used to go out to bid or will there be additional specs developed. Ms. Fink replied, additional specs will be put together for the bid documents. She recommended that any suggestions from Council be incorporated.

Ms. Acly had concerns with the river mud mixture. She would like a much tighter spec so that quality control will be there. Also to make sure European terms are interpreted correctly.

Ms. Burgess asked what the long-term preservation plan was. Mr. Grom replied, he arrived as Executive Director in July of 2023 and there were several preservations needs that were coming due. The combination of the pandemic and the delayed completion of an addition to the museum complex had delayed those further as well as two changes in leadership during that period. They found themselves a little behind and have made preservation a central part of their public mission. By the end of 2026, with this award included, they will have

essentially secured the building envelopes of all three houses so that they can move into more regular cyclical maintenance. They did some restructuring of the staff and in 2024 and added a Director of Preservation position, which has been a godsend in terms of not only identifying and moving things forward, but finding ways to do this all more economically than if they had to go out and pay overhead to a firm that would provide the level of preservation oversight that they are getting in house.

**8. Mystic Seaport Museum. 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT. Project: Replacement of 1/3 of the 480 white oak framework members on the L.A. Dunton vessel. \$100,000.**

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Ms. Rhodes, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Mystic Seaport Museum

Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. Mystic Seaport Museum seeks support for the structural restoration of the bow framing section A of the 1921 L.A. Dunton fishing schooner and replacement of deteriorated frames in the bow are a critical next step to lock the vessel into its original 1921 form and prevent renewed deformation or failure to align with the \$100,000 grant allocation and ensure completion with the two-year grant period.

Mystic Seaport has narrowed the scope of work to focus exclusively on framing restoration.

Dr. Horowitz asked how the boat fits into the scope of what the Council is allowed to fund. Ms. Fink replied the boat is a National Historic landmark vessel. SHPO has funded them in the past with Mystic Seaport. They had the Charles W. Morgan Whale Ship, and they also had the Sabino and there was one other. SHPO also worked out an easement for those vessels so there is a precedent for it.

Mr. Elmore enjoyed the application and asked for an explanation of what “losing 3 feet of shear” meant. Ms. Shannon McKenzie, Mystic Seaport replied, the shear of the vessel is the shape of the hull. Imagine the shape of a vessel, it's usually up at the bow and the stern and lower midships. What happens over time is the vessel hogs and so the lower part of the vessel has more pressure on it and the vessel flattens out. In reshaping it, they're attempting to get that sheer line that includes the lovely pretty lines of the vessel returned to the structure.

Ms. Acly added all here are probably a little more used to working on buildings than boats and white oak is used on buildings a lot for sills and different things due to its rot resistance. It's a challenging material to work with because it needs to season and it changes so much. It sounds like the material's been seasoned and asked Ms. McKenzie if she could just speak on that. McKenzie replied, "That's exactly right." They acquired the oak and it was put in areas where it is able to dry over time so that when it does go into the boat it is stable.

**9. Norwalk Seaport Association. Sheffield Harbor Lighthouse, Norwalk Harbor. Project: Repaint, refinish Sheffield Island Lighthouse tower, repair and replace failing flashing, metal tower connections, and tower glass. \$100,000.**

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second Ms. Carnell the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Norwalk Seaport Association

Amount: \$100,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Norwalk Seaport Association seeks support for the restoration of the historic tower and lantern room of the Sheffield Harbor Lighthouse located in Norwalk Harbor. The revised scope of work focuses exclusively on tower and lantern room restoration and excludes all Yankee gutter repairs previously described under Criteria 1. Mr. Jerry Toni was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Chairman Butkus commented about the glass replacement. Was the original glass laminated or is this something that needs to be done to make sure that it stands up to the current weather conditions. Mr. Toni replied they are doing the best they can with a structure built in 1800s, so they are not going to actually be able to duplicate that class. They are trying to keep it as it was before. One of the issues they have is unfortunately the local birds like to use it, which is the cause of some of the glass deterioration and breakage. They are in discussions with vendors and looking at a couple different options. It is essential, critical, and their mission to keep everything as historically correct as possible. The other side of the mission, of course, is to be sure that it survives the elements of nature that it's exposed to.

**10. Hicks-Stearns Family Museum. 42 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT. Project: Implement structural repairs to stabilize first floor framing, replace deteriorated exterior wood cladding, and paint entire exterior of house. \$90,563.**

On a motion by Ms. Acly, second by Mr. McCoy, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Hicks-Stearns Family Museum

Amount: \$90,563

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Hicks-Stearns Family Museum seeks support for a comprehensive structural stabilization and exterior preservation project. A condition assessment, supported by a Survey and Planning grant, was prepared by Architectural Preservation Services, and these are the items that they called out as priorities, structural stabilization of the first-floor framing system and comprehensive exterior wood repair and repainting.

Mr. Elmore added this is a great museum and asked if the peeling paint and water issues were going to be addressed. Ms. Fink replied, yes, they are both included in the conditions assessment. Architectural Preservation Services are staying on as a Construction Manager and hopefully, they'll be able to address that along the way.

**11. James Merrill House. 107 Water Street, Stonington, CT. Project: Water mitigation, chimney repairs, roof and deck replacements, flashing, rain leaders, sidewalk work for piping into storm water system. \$90,000.**

**\*Mr. McCoy was recused**

On a motion by Ms. Acly, second by Mr. Elmore, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: James Merrill House  
Amount: \$90,000

Ms. Fink presented this application. The James Merrill House Foundation seeks support for a comprehensive water mitigation project at the James Merrill House, a National Historic Landmark. The project focuses on building envelope and site drainage repairs designed to eliminate active water infiltration and stabilize vulnerable historic fabric. The applicant received a Survey and Planning grant in 2023 to produce a condition assessment, as well as a grant to deal with their collections and interior furnishings, wallpaper, and finishes.

**12. Connecticut River Museum. Hayden Chandlery, 67 Main Street, Essex, CT. Project: Restoration of 29 deteriorated windows. \$69,647.**

On a motion by Ms. Carnell, second by Dr. Glaser, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Connecticut River Museum  
Amount: \$69,647

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Connecticut River Museum seeks support for the restoration of 29 historic windows in the Hayden Chandlery. Without immediate intervention, continued deterioration risks permanent damage to both building and its significant maritime collections.

Ms. Burgess asked, as this is a window project for an archival collection building with archival collections, was there a consideration of UV filtration as part of the project? Ms. Fink replied, she did not see it in the scope of work but would be happy to add it and speak about it as a consideration. Ms. Fink thanked Ms. Burgess for the idea. Ms. Burgess also added, it is amazing to preserve the building, but as a next step this would help. There are other funders for this.

Chairman Butkus also added, this fits SHPO's removable reversible criteria.

**13. Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society. Darling Family Farmstead and Museum, 1907 and 1910 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT. Project: Stabilization of Horse Barn and West Barn (aka Ice House). \$52,185.15.**

**\*Ms. Carnell was recused.**

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Ms. Acly, the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend the award of a Historic Restoration Fund Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown. All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant as administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommended this application for funding.

(Y-8, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society

Amount: \$52,185.15

Ms. Fink presented this application. The Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society seeks support for the structural stabilization and preservation of the horse barn and the icehouse at the Darling Family Farmstead and Museum. The Society has already completed emergency stabilization and preservation work on the other farmstead buildings and failure to address these two remaining barns within the recommended time frame could jeopardize the validity of the assessment and risks irreversible loss of historic fabric. They did receive a Survey and Planning grant from SHPO, as well as a past Historic Restoration Fund grant.

Ms. Acly added, it's great to see an organization stay with a survey and planning grant and the findings from a conditions assessment and chip away at it. Kudos, to them.

Dr. Glaser commented if SHPO can make it clear in the record why they are funding this project.

## **VI. State Register of Historic Places Nominations**

### **A. Unfinished Action Items**

### **B. New Action Items**

## **VII. Local Historic District/Property Study Report/s**

### **1. Local Historic Property Study Report, 10 Church Street, Hebron**

Pursuant to CGS §7-147 q(c), the Historic Preservation Council voted to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance and boundary for the United Brethren (Agudas Achim) of Hebron Synagogue (1940-41) at 10 Church Street, as presented in the study report transmitted by the Town of Hebron Historic Properties Commission on January 6, 2026.

(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-1, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Ms. Dunne presented this application. Council's charge in this matter is to comment on the boundary and ordinance and to pass along comments or concerns to the Town of Hebron. The Council did award a grant last October for plans and specifications

for a roof replacement. This property is listed on the State and National Register, but they clearly would like to give it some added protection by listing it as a local historic property. There are interior photos in the report, and she wanted to remind everyone that the Commission does not regulate interiors, but there is no harm in putting them in. Again, she wanted to remind the Commission that there's no review of any interior changes. At least in their purview, SHPO would have purview if state or federal funding was being used. Ms. Dunne asked the Council for any questions, comments or concerns.

Ms. Carnell commented she was very happy to support this study report. It is a very worthy property, and she had just one very minor comment. In the report, the authors tried to draw some stylistic comparisons between the Turshen Mill of 1927. She did not see the stylistic connection between the two buildings. She did not see the Turshen Mill as Art Deco and would recommend that the stylistic reference be dropped. Ms. Dunne agreed to convey this to the applicant. Chairman Butkus agreed with Ms. Carnell.

Ms. Acly agreed with Ms. Carnell and Chairman. The photo before that says synagogue front view Izzy Turshen Architect, Hebron resident. Then the paragraph after it talks about who Izzy Turshen was but unclear how that connects with the photo. Just clean it up a little bit there.

Dr. Glaser commented, she thought it was thorough, when it was listed on the National Register, is it part of the multiple property nomination of Post 1940 synagogues? And if so, maybe that should be mentioned, and it could be explained how it compares to the others in that era. Ms. Dunne replied she believes it is part of the Hebron Center NR District, but it might also be on the multiple property form. She will check into it.

Chairman Butkus added, it was interesting to see the original drawings and how they evolved. It would be interesting to hear that story as to how it evolved and who made the modifications because it's dramatic, on that front facade especially.

## **VIII. Archaeological Preserves**

### **X. Preservation Restrictions**

#### **XI. Report on State Historic Preservation Office – Jonathan Kinney**

Mr. Kinney shortened his report due to time constraints caused by the long agenda and the upcoming CEPA case. He expressed his gratitude to Council and thanked them for sharing their time and expertise. SHPO and the Council just approved over \$1,000,000 for very worthy historic preservation projects all over the state and that is no small thing. He thanked the Council for the work they do.

He congratulated all the applicants on their awards and thanked his staff for the incredible amount of work that goes into these applications behind the scenes ahead to get them in

front of Council today. Mr. Kinney thanked Ms. Fink and all the other staff members who assisted along the way.

**XII. Report on Museum Properties – Liz Shapiro**

Ms. Shapiro echoed Mr. Kinney's thanks to the Council, and everyone involved. This is a yeoman's task for everybody. We really do understand and she is constantly having discussions with the state appointments folks about. They understand that you, and Judicial has one Council that they feel does a workload that is like yours. No one else in any of State Council services have your workload.

We are in the midst of reviewing applications for the Museum's seasonal employees and Ms. Shapiro was happy to report that there are 10 people that have applied to come back out of the 12 from last year. This is exciting news because things are moving quickly with the museums. She will be able to give a better update in March on that process. Ms. Shapiro thanked the Council again for all their support.

**XIII. Old Business**

**XIV. New Business**

**XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Jane Montanaro**

MS. Montanaro reported that it was last call for Preservation Awards nominations. They are due Friday, and she is looking forward to honoring a nice group of projects, individuals, organizations, and young preservationists. If you have anything in mind, please complete the nomination form on our website. The ceremony will be on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the New Haven Country Club.

**XVI. Public Forum**

**XVII. Adjournment of Part 1 of Meeting**

*On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second, Ms. Carnell, this first part of the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.*

**Respectfully submitted by:  
Deborah D. Gaston**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 @ 11:00 am**

**AGENDA**

**Council:** Ms. Elizabeth Acly, Ms. Vincencia Adusei, Ms. Elizabeth Burgess, Chairman Paul Butkus, Ms. Marguerite Carnell, Mr. Thomas Elmore, Dr. Leah Glaser, Dr. Andy Horowitz, Mr. Kent McCoy, Ms. Deanna Rhodes and Dr. Sarah Sportman

**Absent:** N/A

**Staff:** Mr. Cory Atkinson, Mr. Kevin Berger, Ms. Julie Carmelich, Ms. Mary Dunne, Ms. Erin Fink, Ms. Deborah Gaston, Mr. Jonathan Kinney, Ms. Catherine Labadia, Mr. Todd Levine Ms. Jenny Scofield, Ms. Elizabeth Shapiro, and Ms. Marena Wisniewski

**Guests:** Ms. Jane Montanaro, Ms. Abby Roth, Ms. Beth Miller, Mr. Brad Schide, Mr. Brian Tetreault, Ms. Christine Morgan, Ms. Clara Nartey, Mr. Colin Caplan, Mr. Jack Whitney, Ms. Kaelie Moran, Ms. Kishwar Rizvi, Ms. Mariellen Chapdelaine, Ms. Mary Falvey, Ms. Mona Mahadevean, Ms. Olivia Martson, Ms. Pamela Serfes, Mr. Richard Munday, Ms. Rona Johnston, Ms. Sarah Tisdale, Mr. Shawn Galligan, Ms. Anstress Farwell, Mr. Joseph Fracetta, Mr. Miguel Pitman

**Part 2: 11am – 12:30pm – Zoom (PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED)**

**I. Call to Order for Part 2 of Meeting**

Part 2 of the meeting was called to order at 11:05am.

**II. Review of Public Comment Procedures**

Chairman Butkus read aloud the Review of Public Comment Procedures.

**III. Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest**

Chairman Butkus read aloud the Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest and asked if there were any conflicts with staff members or Council. Ms. Acly recused herself from agenda item IX.1.

Vice-Chairman Butkus clarified that the role of the HPC in this matter is not to determine the historical merit of the building(s) in question but to determine if the proposed demolition is unreasonable and whether feasible alternatives to demolition exist. After hearing the presentations, the Council will vote on whether or not the matter should be referred to the Office of the Attorney General.

## IX. Threatened Properties

1. 649 Howard Avenue, New Haven - Todd Levine

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Ms. Carnell, this item was brought to the table for discussion.

Mr. Todd Levine presented a summary of SHPO's involvement in this matter going back to November 2025, when the office was notified of the potential demolition of the building at 649 Howard Avenue, that a new development in Willimantic would require the demolition of 956 Main Street, a contributing resource to the Howard Avenue Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 12, 1985.

Mr. Brad Schide of Preservation Connecticut and Ms. Sarah Tisdale made a presentation to Council that outlined the architectural and historical significance of the property, its importance to both the historic district and the City, and their desire to see the building preserved and adaptively reused to benefit the community. Council members asked several questions of Mr. Schide and Ms. Tisdale.

Ms. Candace Morgan of McCarter & English (legal counsel for the property owner) and Mr. Shawn Galligan, the property owner's representative, presented their plans for the property, needs for additional parking, and their concerns over people accessing the building due to liability. Council members asked several questions of Ms. Morgan and Mr. Galligan.

Nine members of the public addressed the Council:

- Olivia Martson (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Colin Caplan (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Anstress Farwell (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Kishwar Rizvi (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Christopher Wigren (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Abby Roth (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Joseph Fracetta (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Miguel Pitman (In favor of referral to OAG)
- Mariellen Chapdelaine (In favor of referral to OAG)

Following deliberation amongst the members, the Council voted to refer the matter to the Office of the Attorney General. A letter will be sent from SHPO to the OAG regarding next steps.

**\*Dr. Glaser, Ms. Burgess, and Mr. Elmore left the meeting prior to the final vote.**

*(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-3, Recused-1) (Roll call vote)*

## XVII. Adjournment of Part 2 of Meeting

On a motion by Ms. Rhodes, second by Mr. McCoy, the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – Meeting format to be determined***