STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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In Re Property at:

151 East Main Street and :

153 East Main Street, : March 3, 2021

Clinton, Connecticut

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING - PART 2

(via Videoconference)

Held before Historic Preservation Council Members:

SARA O. NELSON, Chair KARYN M. GILVARG, Vice Chair MARGUERITE CARNELL DR. MARGARET M. FABER DR. LEAH GLASER CHRISTINE NELSON

DR. WALTER WOODWARD, State Historian DR. SARA SPORTMAN, State Archeologist

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APPEARANCES:

State Historic Preservation Office:

Elizabeth Shapiro
Jonathan Kinney
Deborah Gaston
Mary Dunne
Marena Wisniewski
Todd Levine
Cathy Labadia
Erin Fink
Jenny Scofield

Preservation Connecticut:

Brad Schide, Preservation Connecticut David Goslin, Crosskey Architects James Grant, James Grant Associates

Resync Property Solutions, LLC:

Jay Kurup, Resync
Benjamin Whelan, BTW Construction
Anthony Bolduc, Stevens & Associates
Daniel Morrisey, Morrisey Engineering
Keith Ainsworth, Esq.

Members from the Public:

Peggy Adler
Alan Kravitz
Megan Stine, Clinton Historical Society
Jake Clinton
Gloria McQueeney, Clinton Historic District Comm.
Bob Bishoff

1	<u>AGENDA</u>
2	I. Call to Order for Part 2 of Meeting
3	II. Review of Public Comment Procedures
4	III. Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest
5	IX. Threatened Properties
6	XVII. Adjournment of Part 2 of Meeting
7	
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10	(Proceedings commenced at 11:03 a.m.)
11	
12	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on
13	record. Today's date is March 3 rd , 2021 and the
14	time is 11:02. Thank you.
15	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you. This is Sara
16	Nelson, I'm the Historic Preservation Council
17	Chair. I am convening Part 2 of the meeting.
18	The Council members seated with me this morning
19	are Karyn Gilvarg, the Vice Chair, Marguerite
20	Carnell, Margaret Faber, Leah Glaser, Christine
21	Nelson, Sara Sportman and Walter Woodward. And
22	we have quorum.
23	I would just like to go over a few
24	housekeeping things before we get started. So
25	Part 2 of the meeting is scheduled to run between

11:00 and 12:30 p.m. We will be unable to extend the time of the meeting past 12:30, so we will make every effort to move as expeditiously as possible through all of the different presentations and the conversations there happening.

For those of you who are visitors today

I just want to identify the process, the sort of

format for one of these agenda items. I will

read the motion, the motion will be moved and

seconded. There will be a presentation by staff.

After the presentation by staff there will be a

presentation of not more than 20 minutes by the

owner and their representatives.

Following that there will be a presentation of not more than 20 minutes by our statutory partner, Preservation Connecticut.

Excuse me, Preservation Connecticut is going first with the owner following second. My apologies.

There will be an opportunity for council members to ask questions at the end of each of those two presentations, and then after we have heard from those two parties members of the public will be invited to speak. Some of you

may have already submitted your names and any written statements to staff. If you haven't already done so the letter that you have can be directed via email to Marena Wisniewski, and it's Marena.wisniewski -- Marena, is that correct?

CHAIR NELSON: Okay. @ct.gov, who will be tracking all of the letters and making them available into the record.

That's correct, Sara.

MS. WISNIEWSKI:

Marena will be helping me by identifying for people who are speaking when they're getting close to the end of the time limit. So for somebody who has been given 20 minutes for a presentation, we'll give you a 5-minute warning and 1-minute warning. And for members of the public given the number of people who wish to address us today there is a 5-minute maximum and we will help you by giving you a 1-minute warning. And we're doing this just to make sure that we're hearing from everybody.

And we are interested in getting new information which each presentation. So in the interest of time and out of fairness to all, if you are in agreement with the points that have previously been made by one of your colleagues

just signal your agreement as opposed to restating again so that we can continue to get as many people speaking as possible.

We ask before you speak that you identify yourselves by name and that you state your affiliation for the record. And let me just see if there's anything else.

If there are members of the public who have not submitted their information and who are lately coming into this process after we go through having heard from everybody whose name we have in advance we will ask for a show of hands via Zoom and we will then call on people in the order in which we see them.

The last thing I want just to review for the owner's benefit and the Connecticut Trust's benefit is that Council had a 196-page agenda packet and I would just like a show of hands for all the council members who have been able to read through all of that material, and that's just to demonstrate that we have a thorough understanding of the information that's been submitted to date. So in the interest of time you don't need to restate things that are in the agenda packet. We'll be looking for new

information.

Okay. We have a Code of

Conduct/Conflict of Interest policy that we

follow. The Historic Preservation Council votes

on matters which provide leadership service and

economic benefits to property owners and

consultants, local governments and not-for-profit

organizations. Given this responsibility and to

maintain the highest professional standards in

the discharge of our duties it is important to

maintain a strong code of ethics for all council

members and Department employees.

In order to avoid possible violations of the Department of Economic and Community

Development ethics statement it is necessary for the Council to be aware of any situations in which there's real potential or apparent conflict of interest involving anyone here. A conflict of interest may occur when the public official's participation in agency matters results in personal financial gain.

You have been provided of the DECD ethics statement in governing state statutes.

Having reviewed them in today's agenda members of the council and staff are now asked to disclose

any affiliation with entities or projects that
may create a conflict of interest as defined by
agency policy and pursuant to Connecticut General
Statute 1-79 through 1-89 entitled Code of Ethics
for Public Officials. Once disclosed the member
or staff may recuse themselves from that
particular agenda item.

Having red this statement are there any council members or staff who wish to disclose a conflict of interest with this agenda item?

None noted. Okay.

brief background. A letter of invitation was extended to the property owner with an appended list of questions, materials helpful in documenting the lack of prudent and feasible alternatives to demolition. The material that was forwarded to SHPO was placed in the drop box and made available to all interested parties.

And so any information provided by the owner was made available and any information provided by Preservation Connecticut was made available to all parties.

I want to remind everybody that this discussion and review is not a discussion about

1	the historical merit of the structure, structures
2	plural actually, which is not a subject of
3	debate. The buildings are both included on the
4	National Register listing for Clinton Village
5	Historic District and are identified both as
6	contributing structures to the district.
7	Okay. Now to the motion. The
8	Connecticut Historic Preservation Council votes
9	to request the assistance of the Office of the
10	Attorney General to prevent the unreasonable
11	destruction of the historic properties at 161
12	East Main Street and 153 East Main Street,
13	Clinton, Connecticut pursuant to the provisions
14	of Sections 22a-19a of the Connecticut General
15	Statutes.
16	Is there a motion to move this?
17	Margaret?
18	MARGARET FABER: I move it. Margaret.
19	CHAIR NELSON: And a second? I'm
20	sorry, I didn't hear who the second was?
21	Marguerite. Okay.
22	Todd, can you start by giving us
23	background please?
24	TODD LEVINE: Yes. Good morning
25	everyone. For the record my name is Todd Levine,

I'm an architectural historian for the State
Historic Preservation Office and I am liaison
between HPC and the Attorney General's Office in
potential SEPA cases.

On January 11th, 2021 our office was notified via email from the Clinton local Historic District Commission member that the Dowd House located at 151 East Main Street and the adjacent corn crib in Clinton, Connecticut was threatened with demolition. The buildings are within the National Register of Historic Places listed Clinton Village Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1994.

The demolition process began on January 11th when an attempt to demolish sign was posted on the front door of the subject properties. The municipality has a 90-day demolition delay process through Planning & Zoning.

On January 14 $^{\rm th}$, 2021 SHPO and Preservation Connecticut staff did an exterior site visit from the public right away.

On January 23rd a petition objecting to the demolition was started on Change.org in Facebook. Within 24 hours there was 390 signatures, 272 of which were from residents of

Clinton which spurred the SHPO's formal investigation. To date there are 784 signatures.

On January 28th our office contacted the owner, Resync Property Solutions and the owner's legal representation, Keith Ainsworth, about the SEPA process. We requested interior access for Preservation Connecticut's tack team which would provide an opportunity to historic structural engineers and historic architects to determine integrity and develop prudent and feasible alternatives. Attorney Ainsworth declined until the owner's design team and structural engineers had an opportunity to evaluate the site themselves but suggested after their analysis access would be forthcoming.

On February 4th SHPO sent an invitation letter to Attorney Ainsworth inviting him and his team to today's meeting to determine whether the proposed destruction is reasonable in light of the associated facts and circumstances and to provide expert support and exploring alternatives to demolition.

On Thursday, February 11th SHPO scheduled access for the tack team for Friday, February 19th, which was reschedule due to weather

1 to Monday, February 22^{nd} , which is when the team 2 finally got access. And on February 26th our office posted the report that you all have found 4 in the drop box. 5 Lastly, on March 26, so forthcoming the 6 State Review Board will review the property at its regularly scheduled meeting to confirm they 7 8 continue to contribute to the National Register 9 district. Thank you. 10 CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Todd. 11 So the first presentation would be by 12 Preservation Connecticut. And Brad, would you be 13 leading that? BRAD SCHIDE: Yes. 14 15 CHAIR NELSON: Brad Schide. 16 BRAD SCHIDE: Good afternoon, 17 everybody. Brad Schide, I'm (undiscernible) 18 writer for Preservation Connecticut, formerly 19 Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. On 20 behalf of myself, Jane Montenaro, staff and all 21 the community you're going to hear after me and 22 all the 900-some pages or so you guys got, we 23 thank you guys, Historic Council, for the 24 opportunity to try to pose an alternative to 25 demolition.

I'm joined in part of my presentation today by the team that Preservation Connecticut usually pulls together, Dave Goslin is from Crosskey Architects and Jim Grant from James Grant Structural Engineers. They will follow me and then I'll kind of come in the back end and kind of wrap up.

Let me see if I can share -- why can I not find it -- well, we can work from the -- for some reason I can't pull it up at the moment.

Let's move towards -- there's two
properties here as everybody knows. There is 153
East Main Street and then there's 155-157 East
Main Street. One of them is -- both again as
Sara said, both are contributing structures on
the National Register, so it's not about the
history so much as what we were trying to get to
is figure out, you now, what could be a possible
alternative.

Our focus again, I want to be clear what our proposal that we're striving for her is not to stop the development, it's also not to decrease density, it's also not to make the development not work. I think our premise here was to come in and try to incorporate the

1	structures within the larger development they've
2	already planned. I think it's 32 units. It's a
3	very large site. It's almost all the residential
4	units are going to be in back, and they discussed
5	about knocking these two down which again they
6	can more or less tell you why they need to do
7	that.
8	CHAIR NELSON: I'm going to interrupt
9	you one second, Brad.
10	BRAD SCHIDE: Sure.
11	CHAIR NELSON: Is there a graphic you
12	would like on the screen that SHPO staff could
13	put up that you can speak to?
14	BRAD SCHIDE: Yeah, I had it on my
15	for some reason I cannot pull up my
16	DAVE GOSLIN: Brad, I could all it up.
17	Do you want the site plan that they proposed?
18	BRAD SCHIDE: No, actually I was just
19	going to try to get some photos that the council
20	already has.
21	TODD LEVINE: We'll pull them up.
22	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. I think that
23	would just help facilitate the conversation.
24	BRAD SCHIDE: Sure. I'm sorry, for
25	some reason I can't pull it up.

1 CHAIR NELSON: Okay. 2 (Site plan on shared screen.) 3 BRAD SCHIDE: Yeah, here -- this is the 4 site plan we're going to eventually talk to but 5 the photos unfortunately this is not -- if we're 6 looking at this, yeah, that doesn't really help. But we'll get -- Dave is going to go into the 7 8 site plan later. But let me be really clear what 9 the two buildings are and then Dave can go more 10 into the site plan itself. 11 Again, we're trying to work to 12 incorporate mainly 153 Main Street which is a 13 colonial kind of federal style house, and the 14 other building has two pieces to it, there it is, 15 a corn crib in the front of it and then there is 16 a -- there it is. 17 (Photos on shared screen.) 18 BRAD SCHINE: Great. Yes, that was 19 what I was trying to get to. There we go. Yeah. 20 So 153 East Main Street, there we are right 21 there, and this is 155. And am I able to scroll 22 down on this? Yeah. So I just want to be clear 23 this is the corn crib right here, and the balance of the site is the commercial structure on the 24

155-157, and this is more of a street view.

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is the corn crib and the commercial building here and this is the colonial/federal style structure.

So, again, our main intent here is to try to save the streetscape and the developer right now are not proposing that.

In terms of the community I think Todd laid out the timing of this. We pretty much heard about this around January. We did meet with a lot of the community, a couple of very strong community advocates, and as Todd said there are probably right now I guess 785 names. But I think more importantly there was probably about 270 I think it was -- and again you'll hear testimony after mine to get the exact numbers on that, but of wanting to save one or both of the structures.

And you will see -- and I should also say in the timeline of things we actually did not -- we did make a site visit for the exterior but we were not able to get inside the building until February 22nd, this last week, and I do have some pictures we can go through and look at briefly. But I do want to say it was not -- and we also got a budget number from them to rehab the house and the startling new information or I should say

new information we got from the owner's rep at that meeting was that they wanted to move the house and it wasn't clear exactly where they were going to move it, but the cost that you see in your packet, the 891,000, at least that's the last one I got, did include moving costs. And we started to talk to them at the site and they seemed to suggest that that was real important. So I don't know if they're going to address that in their presentation, but it was unclear to us why that was necessary and, you know, where exactly those costs were.

If you maybe scroll down on the next page here, so I just want to kind of walk through a little bit of the property. This is again 153

East Main Street. You can see the fan light (phonetic) and a lot of the historic trim is there. That is vinyl siding however. The thing I want to point out to, this is behind the house though, there is a large -- you see the structure here, very large structure in the back, that actually is an indoor pool and that is obviously not historic and we are not trying to preserve that. So that would basically free up space.

The developer does need space there doing a

septic and well water, so they do need leaching fields, they need a lot of space. So we're not looking to save that piece of it.

You can go to the next page. Yeah, and again I just want to kind of walk through generally, again it's vinyl sided but you can see the 12 over 12 historic windows, actually there's a different historic window elsewhere on the property but this is a 12 over 12.

We finally got inside the house, you can see some of the fireplaces are intact. This is one. Go to the next page. So I can go to the next page there -- I can't -- make it go. No.

Yeah, so there's the center stairway
that is pretty much intact. You see some
historic doors, plaster, floors are in excellent
shape. There doesn't seem to be any issues
there. Wide plank floors.

This is the different historic window. I'm not sure why this one is different. Maybe it's an addition or a different time period or -- once again we had about an hour on February 22nd to go through everything so it wasn't clear from us what all the historic different time periods was.

Next page. Yeah, so this is just another fireplace. You can see also some of the historic doors that are still intact. So what's down here, you're saying what the heck is that.

Well, inside the commercial building and the corn crib, so this is 155-57. Inside there's pretty much a lot of I guess debris and store materials I guess when the house -- I guess it was a store, it was like a store that sold baskets and stuff. All those baskets didn't sell and I guess they just threw it all in the house. Anyway, so there's quite a bit of that.

If you go to the next page.

CHAIR NELSON: Brad, I'm just going to interject for one moment. I know you've got some other team members who will be speaking as well.

You're about at 10 minutes into your (indiscernible).

BRAD SCHIDE: I'm finished, I just want to highlight the crib and then we'll turn to David.

So this is the corn crib. I just want to be clear this is the front side of it and this is kind of the back side, so this is the commercial building and the corn crib is in the

1	front. This is facing East Main Street.
2	I do want to point out to you that
3	these are not on a permanent foundation. And Jim
4	Grant can probably address that, that this could
5	be moved offsite.
6	With that I'll turn it over to Dave
7	Goslin who will look at that site plan and then
8	that would be followed by Jim Grant talking about
9	some of the structural issues.
10	DAVID GOSLIN: Thanks, Brad.
11	For the record my name is David Goslin,
12	I'm a principal with Crosskey Architects. And we
13	were sent the site plans for this a few weeks
14	back from the site plans, and Marena, I don't
15	know if you can share you screen with me, I have
16	I want to start with the site plan that we
17	were first given and go with that.
18	(Site plan on shared screen.)
19	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: You were just given
20	access.
21	DAVID GOSLIN: Okay. Can you all see
22	my screen now?
23	MARENA WISNEWSKI: No.
24	BRAD SCHIDE: Dave, you might want to
25	just we're running out of time so you might
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just want to focus on your site plan and what you did.

DAVID GOSLIN: Marena, if you could just go back to the site plan that you just had up. I'll talk briefly about the proposed site plan that they had. They were obviously proposing to remove the existing buildings along East Main Street and put in new buildings facing the street. They have four new buildings proposed along the street. They were kind of a mixed us structure, there was office space on the first floor with condos above, and behind that they had units totaling to 32 condo apartments.

I basically took that sketch and did a trace overlay and I came up with the sketch that is currently on the screen. This sketch is basically preserving the existing house along East Main Street kind of shown in black. I did remove the pool addition off the back because it's really not significant to the structure, it was added later, and the reason to remove that is it gives us more depth to the site to kind of fit in some of the newer buildings.

And then over to the right is the corn crib. This is showing the corn crib remaining

although the corn crib as Brad said is not on a foundation, could very easily be moved and relocated to another property if need be. But I am also calling for the demo of that rear commercial building because it's in pretty rough shape. And the demolition of that allows us to get more of the newer buildings into the back.

So with this sketch I was able to still maintain the 32 units of new apartments or condos that they were proposing towards the rear. I did so by pretty much rotating the septic field in order to kind of get the buildings that are on the straight run a little close together. Now, I will say I'm not a civil engineer and I think a lot of this will still need to be vetted by a civil engineer, but from what I can — and from the site plan we were given these septic fields include each unit has its own septic along with the reserve, so that's why there's one that's solid and one that's dashed for each of the units.

So in doing this I was able to maintain the same number of units that they were proposing and still keep the existing structures in the front. Now the existing house can be continued

1 and reused as a residence or it can be converted 2 and reused as a professional office building or 3 another use. 4 The access road that is providing 5 access to the back, I kind of located it in the 6 same location where the existing curb cuts are for the driveway to the house and to the retail 7 8 building so it really doesn't alter the street's 9 approach or access from the street. 10 So basically what this is really 11 showing is that I think there is a prudent and 12 feasible alternative to demolition and that the 13 developer can still achieve the goals he's trying 14 to get and maintain the existing structures to 15 the front. 16 So basically that wraps up my portion 17 of this and, Brad, I think Jim is going to go 18 next? 19 MARENA WISNIEWSKI: You have five 20 minutes. 21 JIM GRANT: Hello, this is Jim Grant, 22 James K. Grant Associates, structural engineers. 23 I've been a consultant to Preservation 24 Connecticut and to SHPO for quite a long time.

I've seen many structures from this age and the

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residential house is in sound condition except for the first floor which does have some significant problems. But the foundation, the stone foundation is stable. The floors, even the first floor, are fairly firm when they're under foot traffic. We had several people in the house on the 22nd when we visited and I couldn't detect any real issues from people walking around.

The roof framing is in good condition.

It may need some investigation if it's determined that it needs to support additional snow loads but that is easily accomplished.

The house really aside from the first floor framing which should be upgraded and can be designed for whatever occupancy is proposed, the house is in good condition but if it was moved I think even though it's not really a very challenging house to move, could undergo some distress and cause some issues. I think it's best to keep it on its existing foundation.

There is some movement in the stonework but it's very minor and it's about 200 years old. It's got a good history of soundness so I think there will be no problem continuing to support the house on the existing foundation.

The first floor framing should be replaced and it can be done by a contractor that's experienced in this kind of work. It could be replaced in sections rather than all at once.

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The two chimney stone mass foundations are sound. They do contain timbers that are compromised from insect damage but that could be corrected at the time that the first floor framing is replaced. But basically it's in good condition.

The corn crib is also in sound condition. The timber frame within it, can't see much of it at the floor level but what was visible was in good condition. The siding as you can see from photographs needs some work but that's nonstructural and can be repaired or replaced as needed. The main issue there is that it's not on a permanent foundation. It appears to be supported on some stone slabs and even though it's independent structurally from the house from the structure behind I think that it is actually attached to it, which gives it some stability to resist wind loads. If the rear house was removed it would have to be secured on

1	a permanent foundation to be able to resist wind
2	loads. But it's basically the structure of
3	the corn crib is sound and can be either
4	preserved in place or moved.
5	BRAD SCHIDE: Yeah, and just to
6	conclude, Sara, so the thrust of our testimony is
7	that we were not given enough time to evaluate
8	costs. Jim has made some references to
9	MARNA WISNIEWSKI: You have one minute.
10	BRAD SCHIDE: made some reference to
11	structural issues. What we would be asking the
12	council to do today or the owner, April 1^{st} I
13	think is the deadline, so it's either extending
14	the demo time period or AG involvement to foster
15	that time period so that we have more time to
16	evaluate the cost and the options. Thank you.
17	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Thank you, Brad.
18	So first what I'd like to do is open it
19	up for council member questions for Connecticut
20	Trust presentation or actually anything that Todd
21	said by way of his introductory remarks.
22	Council members? Okay, Margaret.
23	You're on mute still.
24	MARGARET FABER: I'm sorry.
25	So I just wanted to discuss the cost to

make sure I understand this. So it seems that based on Preservation Connecticut's study that less money is going to be needed to remediate and renovate the property than what has been proposed by the owner. If moving the structure costs, you know, approximated 300,000 as Preservation Connecticut said, then based on the Morrisey budget of 891,400 restoring the structure in place would be about 591,400. And if replacing the building with a replica using modern materials would cost 450,000, which would obviously have no historic integrity and not conform to the Secretary of the Interior's standards, then the budget of 141,400 to retain the original National Register structure I think would be both feasible and prudent.

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And this isn't even taking into account the funding and tax credits available to the project which could be significant. So I'm wondering if I'm understanding that correctly.

TODD LEVINE: Yeah, I could comment on that. I think -- a couple things. One is that there is after the owner's cost analysis we asked -- because he had provided that with the plan to move it. That was a plan to move it over and

back. And I requested that he change it for keeping it on site. So he has an addendum to that that is in your packet where he says, well, the change in cost for not moving is only 80,000. So I'm sure when they get to their presentation they can clarify that because it's a little unclear to me as well.

And then secondly in terms of our office's ability to provide financial assistance because of the nature of the for-profit developer and the size of the development of the historic property, I don't believe they would be eligible for tax credits nor grants.

CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Thank you. Other council --

BRAD SCHIDE: I just want to add that should we get an extension what we would be doing is Dave Goslin would do a formal scope of work that we think is truly needed in the property as a rehab, and then we would actually have it priced out by a general contractor. Just to let you know what -- and I think that would answer a lot of Margaret's questions.

We're operating on a -- and I have not seen the new budget either until Todd just

mentioned it. So just so you know.

2 CHAIR NELSON: So this is

(indiscernible), one question for Dave and for Jim. I just want to clarify for the record the structural repairs that are required for the first floor can be done from the basement below and that the repairs can be such that they could yield a floor loading for either continued residential occupancy or office occupancy if that were judged to be desirable.

JIM GRANT: Yes, that's correct. The flooring, the existing flooring would need to be taken up first and then the structural repairs made, and then the original flooring replaced on it. But it can be designed for whatever loading is appropriate or proposed for the building.

CHAIR NELSON: Okay. And the follow-up question, Dave, this is for you. So in terms of the building and your experience with doing adaptive reuse in residential projects, do you see that this building has the potential in situ for either two residential units or one commercial unit with a residential unit? I'm just trying to evaluate its potentiality.

DAVID GOSLIN: I think that can go in

1	several different directions. The whole building
2	could be converted to commercial. I'm thinking
3	just, you know, you think a law office where it
4	can be multiple one firm in there with
5	multiple offices, the bedrooms and the dining
6	room and all that stuff become private offices.
7	It could also be split into a two-family where
8	each floor is an apartment. There's certainly
9	enough square footage there to support that.
10	I think the first floor is just under
11	or just over just under a thousand square feet
12	so that potentially could get a one bedroom on
13	each floor. Whether you do it with a commercial
14	mixed use and commercial on the first floor and
15	the second floor, that's possible. I don't know
16	how marketable that would be but it is certainly
17	possible.
18	CHAIR NELSON: All right. Thank you.
19	Other council members
20	JIM GRANT: Just to add something on
21	the second floor.
22	CHAIR NELSON: Yes.
23	JIM GRANT: The second floor is now for
24	residential use, if it became office use we would
25	have to be sure that the loads are monitored so

1	you didn't exceed its current capacity.
2	CHAIR NELSON: Or the second floor
3	framing would need to be augmented.
4	JIM GRANT: That's right. Yes.
5	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you for clarifying
6	that.
7	Margaret, you have a question?
8	MARGARET FABER: I do. So just to
9	confirm. So you found that the structural issues
10	are you think that they're going to be
11	repairable and when you were reviewing the
12	structures you noticed that much of their
13	integrity remains. Is that correct?
14	JIM GRANT: That's correct.
15	MARGARET FABER: Okay. Thank you.
16	CHAIR NELSON: Other council member
17	questions?
18	Okay. At this point what I'd like to
19	do is turn to the owner of their representatives.
20	Mr. Ainsworth, are you the one who will
21	be presenting?
22	ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: I'm one of the
23	persons who will be presenting, yes. Thank you.
24	So Madame Chair and members of the
25	council, my name is Keith Ainsworth, I'm a

private practice environmental attorney. I've been practicing environmental law for the last 31 years. I have offices in New Haven, Connecticut and currently located in Madison during the pandemic.

And it is my privilege today to represent Resync Property Solutions which is the property owner. I just want to give it a brief introduction and I will turn it over to my team here and that includes Tony Bolduc who is with Stevens & Associates which is a civil engineering firm, Daniel Morrisey, who is a structural engineer, and Jay Kurup, by the way, is the owner's representative. He is the principal in Resync. And Ben Whelan of BTW construction who did our construction estimates.

I did want to address one point that was repeatedly stressed and I think it was unfair to the owner. First of all, I want to stress that this a private property and in America we still have private property rights. It was repeated over and over again that we just got access; we were denied access. I thought that statement bothered me the most because when Todd Levine contacted me I specifically never said the

words "we don't let you in, we deny." It never happened.

What I said was we want to get into the property first. We wanted to do our own analysis and we said we would provide them access if on a mutual agreement that there was a need for further access. I find the suggestion that we were somehow uncooperative to be offensive. I was nothing but solicitous and generous with my time. My client immediately hired a structural engineer and retained at his expense my services and the services of the other professionals to do an analysis on this property for its reuse.

So they did get access, it was with permission. This is private property, they had no right to be there except by request and we gave it.

Number two, we were also able to do our analysis on the property and we have presented it to you. I think it's interesting to note that with all of these historic recourses being focused on this property that the attention to detail is rather shockingly limited. There was the statement that the property was going to be moved. Well, first of all, if you had looked at

the plans our estimate for moving it or restoring the property was to lift it and then restore the foundation in an adjacent location, in other words, just moving the house just over a little bit, not somewhere else on the property, but just literally a few feet over so we could put in a proper foundation to support the structure.

Number two, it didn't cost \$300,000.

Mr. Schide is absolutely incorrect in that. He was actually off by a figure of -- a factor of 10. Our estimate does not include \$300,000 in moving costs. It was 30,000, actual 37, but some of those costs involve other elements. So it's not \$300,000 to move it.

Number two, when we were informed that we should provide a restoration cost in situ, because the initial set of questions we were given by SHPO we answered and it didn't say in situ. It just said what are the costs for restoration. So we did a restoration which was just next door.

However, when we were informed of that condition we revised our numbers and the numbers went up because it costs more to move the house up and restore it on its exactly location because

you have to get underneath and redo the foundation. If we're going to do the restoration we're going to do it correctly so that it can support a mixed use. But the way, this is a mixed use zone and so they talk about converting it to multi-family and commercial requires a zone change. I don't know what we would qualify for that.

Number two, there was some talk already about, a generous discussion about the tax credits and the grants that would be available to us. They're not.

So of those many signatures on the Facebook and Change.org petitions which are of uncertain origin and credibility, no one has stepped forward and said we would agree to help you in restoring this residence. No one has offered money, no one has offered to buy it. It was on the market for two years without offers. May client stepped in to do something that was allowed by zoning.

And while I know that the historic integrity of these buildings is not the subject of this discussion, that's being parceled out into another meeting, everyone seems to take for

granted that the corn crib is somehow a contributing structure. While it was listed that was practically in error.

We have submitted in the packet, you will see an aerial photograph from 1970 and that's page 38 of the document that's on the drop box, and that aerial photograph, you look, the corn crib is not in existence on that site at that time. I clearly was moved in after 1970, we're not exactly sure when, but it's of recent origin. And since the stated objective was to protect the streetscape, if you're trying to protect the streetscape that's historic, when you would actually move the corn crib.

Now, we are not proposing at this point to demolish the corn crib. We have had several offers by folks within the community to move it to actually a more farm-like setting where it would probably be more appropriate. So that resource will be preserved but not on this site. That's our intent.

As for the residence we have analyzed that and I will turn that over to Tony Bolduc of Stevens & Associates to discuss his findings and also some comments about the alternative that was

proposed by Crosskey.

TONY BOLDUC: All right. So this is

Tony Bolduc. I'm just going to give a heads up

too, I have Ben Whelan with me here so at some

point when he speaks, you know, I'll face the

camera more to him. But back to the point.

On page 67 of the package it shows an alternate layout and just to glance off of this. So our office has laid out the site and received approval from Clinton Design Review and (indiscernible) Health District. Any change to the orientation of the building or the layout will require a revisit by both Design Review and the Health District. This will further delay the process and add a significant cost to the developer as he will need to develop plans for said change both civil architectural/structural.

Also the proposed schematic layout by Crosskey Architects by their own admission does not take into consideration the septic. The septic system shown on this layout for units 3 through 10 and 27 through 30 do not meet the state's requirements for fact-to-face separation for adjoining septic systems. It also lacks a septic entirely for the 151 house, and by that is

not a feasible alternative to our layout. And that's my spiel for the site plant.

And with that I think I'm going to turn it over to Dan Morrisey if he's available.

DAN MORRISEY: Hi, everyone. I'm Dan Morrisey, Morrisey Engineering. We looked at the structure of the existing house and the corn crib. I don't have a lot of issues on which I disagree with James Grant. I think we're pretty much on the same page here. There's a few minor points I want to bring up though.

We had insulation we have to increase the load capacity to accommodate modern snow loads. We basically need to double the amount of roof the roof is required in addition to the repairs of the first floor as he detailed.

Also, part of the contributing to fact that the first floor is rotted out is the fact

that there's no mortar in the foundation walls. There's water running through the basement of this building. We need to halt that in order to preserve any new structure we build. So whether we replace the foundation or waterproof the foundation or repoint the foundation we need to do some work there to mitigate water entry to preserve any new structure we put in.

Other than those I agree that the residence is in good condition other than the first floor and the obsolescence of the roof.

The corn crib itself can be easily moved. The retail structure behind it is in very poor condition. I think we're on the same page there and I think it all comes down to what it costs to do these repairs that we both agree on. So I think I'll kick it back to Ben for that discussion.

BEN WHELAN: Hello, Benjamin Whelan, owner of BTW Construction. I was brought into the residence and looked at the repairs that would be needed after Dan put his report together and I do agree that we can fix anything. The question that becomes in any owner's mind is how much does it cost, which is why we were proposing

what we did which was to actually lift up the building and move it to a new foundation which would be more economically prudent than leaving it in its current place.

As Dan stated, we do have foundation issues with water. There is a sump pump in there right now. Right now at this time of year there is quite a bit of water which has contributed to some issues. In order to mitigate that issue a traditional cast foundation is more economically product then trying to work with the stone foundation that's there and basically running the risk of it collapsing while you're trying to waterproof that foundation.

We also had the Clinton building official onsite because the owner's plan is to do a mixed use. He basically said in a letter which is included that a change of use will constitute a basic upgrade of all codes. He said there will be some exemptions for things such as insulation but as far as public safety and use it will have to come up to current code.

In fixing that first floor the most economical way to do it is to lift the house and reframe the floor underneath and deal with the

insulation issues and other things such as wiring from the exterior. Again, my cost for looking at this from an owner's perspective as to what it would cost, our numbers will allow us to build a new structure to meet its needs for far less money than restoring that structure. Thank you.

ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: Well, and then to just return back, the building official's letter from the Town of Clinton is at page 37 of the pdf document that's in the drop box.

(Letter brought up on share screen.)

So I'd like to say that -- yes, thank you. That is the letter I was referring to. So that change of use letter basically says that if we're going from a residence to the mixed use which is required in the zone and which is what we're proposing for this development, that there are -- we have to meet current building codes and that contributes to some of the cost for maintaining this building.

The numbers that we have can be found at page 33 or 36 of the package on the drop box and you'll see those. You'll see at page 39, you'll see the photograph looking west with the residence on the right, and what you'll see there

is that this residence is actually at the very tail end of this historic district. It's been jerrymandered to capture the large house at the end of the district which is just to the east at the intersection of Route 145 and Route 1. That I think was the intent because they took a photograph of that in the National Historic Register nomination. They never took a photograph of this particular residence.

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And you can see that they added a tail onto the district which I believe they were trying to capture this other rather significant historic structure. Because the district next door, if you look at the aerial photographs at page 185, 186 and 187 of the drop box, what you'll see is that the district covers two properties next door. One is the Clinton Motel and another condominium development which are not historic at all. And of course if you look at the site where it says 151 East Main Street you'll see across the street is a bank, a nail salon and an engineering office of no particular architectural significance of recent vintage, you know, 1980s and probably sooner.

And so what happened is the district

was jerrymandered to actually capture another building. So I just wanted to point out that there are some realities here. This is not the Liberty Street and Clinton Green area which is very historic and actually has a cluster of these structures. This one stands along surrounded by buildings of varying degrees of historic value.

MARENA WISNEIWSKI: You have 5 minutes.

ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: So I just wanted to point out that those things exist. And let me see if I got any notes here. I just want to make sure we cover the issues that we have in the time that we have. Let me see.

Well, as far as feasible and prudent alternatives I don't think that the SHPO Office has proven either that they have a feasible alternative. One, their alternative presented by Crosskey actually doesn't meet code, doesn't address a septic system for one of the units and violates other septic codes. So it's not really feasible.

And then number two, nothing in the earlier presentation by SHPO and its team addresses the prudency part of it. They just basically said it can be done. We would agree

physically you can preserve this building but the 1 2 numbers are extraordinarily high compared to the value of what will result. It's about a \$450,000 3 4 value and the it's almost a million dollars to 5 restore the building. No rational human being 6 would put that kind of money in a development, although if someone is willing to put in a fair 7 8 share of that my client would certainly consider 9 it. But we're open to questions at this point. 10 CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. 11 Ainsworth, and your team. 12 Let me first turn to my fellow council 13 members and ask them for questions that they 14 Margaret? You're on mute, Margaret. have. 15 MARGARET FABER: So sorry. I'm having 16 trouble with that. So I just wanted to mention 17 that I understand it cost is an element of the 18 prudent standard but it's a subsidiary factor in 19 all but the most exceptional cases and shouldn't figure prominently in our deliberations. So I 20 21 just wanted to remind council of that as we 22 learned previously. 23 CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Margaret. 24 Other council member questions? 25 Margarite Carnell.

1	MARGUERITE CARNELL: I was wondering
2	was the owner aware of the building's historic
3	status when it purchased the building?
4	CHAIR NELSON: Mr. Ainsworth, could you
5	address that?
6	ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: Actually, I don't
7	know the answer to that, but I'm not sure that's
8	relevant to be honest.
9	CHAIR NELSON: Other council member
10	questions?
11	I have one while people are working
12	their mute buttons. This is a question for Mr.
13	Whelan, the contractor. How many buildings
14	dating 1800 have you worked on in the last five
15	years restoring?
16	BEN WHELAN: I've worked on three.
17	CHAIR NELSON: Three. And where were
18	those located?
19	BEN WHELAN: Branford and North
20	Guilford.
21	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. And what was the
22	were they residential, were they commercial?
23	BEN WHELAN: The historic buildings
24	we've done have been residential in the past five
25	years.

1 CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Thank you. 2 Margaret? 3 MARGARET FABER: I'm wondering if has 4 the owner attempted to sell the historic 5 structure as an alternative to demolition? I 6 know they're on the market previously but has the 7 owner attempted to sell. 8 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: I can answer that. 9 We've actually contacted a company that is called 10 Historic Barns out of Texas. They worked with 11 the Middlebury Land Trust, another client of 12 mine, to take a 1725 colonial structure which the 13 disassembled for just I think \$4,500 and some 14 debris costs or site costs, and then they 15 relocated it to I think to Ohio, restored it to 16 gorgeous condition, I think it was featured on a 17 television series. But they do impeccable work 18 and we have contacted them. They contacted me 19 back to say they wanted to do an analysis on it. 20 They were of course in Texas and so they go hit 21 by this ice storm. That delayed their response 22 to me. 23 So I don't know what their eventual 24 interest is but we do have apart from that a 25 number of folks who are interested in taking

architectural details from it and using them in other structures as opposed to taking the entire structure as a structure. We would be willing to consider --

MARGARET FABER: I think I maybe misstated the question. I mean in situ. So have they tried to subdivide in such a way that you could sell the historic parcels separately?

TONY BOLDUC: Can I jump onto that one?

This is Tony Bolduc. So just part of the process was to -- for this development did not include a subdivision. So in order to split this off it would, again, further the process along. We'd have to do another analysis making sure it all worked to subdivide the property. We haven't looked at doing that because it would push this farther down the line.

I mean again, anything is possible but, you know, cost-wise we have not.

CHAIR NELSON: I want to just follow up on that question because on the town map, if you go to the town's GIS system, it actually is shown as two parcels. So there's the front parcel of the street, and the rear parcel which seems to have an easement for access that comes down on

1 the west side of the house. 2 TONY BOLDUC: Correct. So we're doing 3 a lot line revision to incorporate an even number 4 of septic systems on each lot, which is part of 5 the Connecticut Health Code. So any change in 6 that -- it's actually an owned strip to the back 7 piece, but any change in the layout that we have 8 would again have to go back to the Connecticut 9 Health District and if we were to add another lot 10 we could have to go back, pull out application, 11 go back to Planning & Zoning and rework the 12 layout. But again, there's a reason this was 13 divided the way it was is to keep an even number 14 of septics on each lot. 15 CHAIR NELSON: And Todd, correct me, is 16 my understanding correct that Planning & Zoning 17 is actually waiting for information from what 18 comes out of this meeting? 19 TONY BOLDUC: I'm sorry, was that 20 address to me or --21 CHAIR NELSON: It was to Todd Levine. 22 TONY BOLDUC: Okay. Sorry. 23 TODD LEVINE: Yeah, they have a meeting scheduled for later on this month and then their 24 25 last meeting they tabled this issue.

1 to see what happened here. 2 CHAIR NELSON: Okay. So in fact this 3 is still an open agenda item for the Town of 4 Clinton Planning & Zoning? 5 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: I can address 6 that. It is. We are currently before P&Z and at the last meeting this came up that we were in 7 8 discussions and we were going to attend this 9 meeting, and the Commission asked that we report 10 back on the 8th, which is the next meeting as to 11 the results of the discussions that we had. 12 CHAIR NELSON: Okay. All right. And I 13 just wanted, while you're on the line, I just 14 want to clarify one other question, Mr. 15 Ainsworth. 16 So you referenced the change of use and 17 the code requirements inherent in a change of use which I understand. But if the residence were to 18 19 remain residential, it's an existing use right 20 now, so there's no requirement that it has to 21 change from residential to mixed use technically, 22 correct? 23 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: If you look at the 24 letter at page 37 -- let's see if I can pull that 25 up.

1 (Letter on share screen.) 2 Yeah, it's a change of occupancy. 3 We're actually triggering the change of occupancy 4 rule which requires upgrade in the codes and 5 that's due to the fact that we are in a mixed use 6 zone and in order to do this project we actually have to have a mixed use element, and so we can't 7 8 do the project without doing the mixed use. 9 so that triggers the code requirement. If we 10 were to leave that residence as a residence, yes, 11 but then we can't do the rest of the project. 12 CHAIR NELSON: But the follow-up 13 question would be could the corn crib structure 14 heavily modified satisfy the mixed use 15 requirement that you need in order to do the 16 residential development? 17 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: That's an 18 interesting question. The corn crib is a unique 19 20 CHAIR NELSON: Right. 21 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: -- is a unique 22 commercial enterprise, the basket shop that runs 23 out of it. That's not part of the plan but -- I 24 don't actually know the answer to that. I mean 25 actually, Tony, have you looked at the corn crib

1 as being a reused part of the mixed use? 2 TONY BOLDUC: So I haven't looked at it 3 as part of the mixed use I mean because I keep 4 going back -- I'm going to throw this other thing 5 out there even though it wasn't part of the 6 question, as for historic value a corn crib with windows in it, so I never really looked at that. 7 8 But if you were to leave that in place it would 9 be at the cost of unit 4 on our layout. So to 10 keep the corn crim would require the loss of one 11 of the units. So it wasn't really one of our 12 options. 13 DAN MORRISEY: Excuse me, everyone, 14 this is Dan Morrisey. May I do a couple of 15 comments on this subject? 16 CHAIR NELSON: Um-hum. 17 DAN MORRISEY: Regardless of the change 18 of occupancy triggering a code requirement, if 19 the building is going to be occupied the first 20 floor needs to be rebuilt. It is not safe in the 21 current condition. 22 CHAIR NELSON: Yep, understood. 23 DAN MORRISEY: Also, if the building is 24 going to be insulated that triggers a code 25 requirement for reinforcement of the roof.

1 doesn't require a change of occupancy, it 2 requires a change in the loads. Once you change 3 the loads you have to bring the structure up to So the first floor and the roof will both 4 5 need to be rebuilt in order to use this building 6 for any use. I understand the point 7 CHAIR NELSON: 8 that you're making and thank you for clarifying 9 that into the record. What I was exploring was 10 whether the house had to have the change of use 11 which then requires yet another level of 12 intervention beyond --13 DAN MORRISEY: Right. But thank you. 14 CHAIR NELSON: 15 DAN MORRISEY: The bulk of the 16 intervention is just for use, not even for a 17 change. 18 CHAIR NELSON: Okay. 19 Todd, you were raising your hand? 20 TODD LEVINE: Thank you. I just had a 21 question. My understanding was that there was 22 going to be new construction on the streetscape 23 of I think 4 units was what you guys were going 24 to do at some point in this, which were mixed 25 So if you kept this building, if you even

1	had one of those as mix use would that satisfy
2	the requirement for the rest of the site? Is the
3	deal 4 mixed use units on the street to do the
4	rest of the residential?
5	TONY BOLDUC: If you want I'll jump in
6	on this. So yes, our approach was for two mixed
7	use units. We could vary them but again it would
8	be slightly back to the drawing board on our
9	part.
10	CHAIR NELSON: Would somebody be able
11	to put up the owner's original site plan, the one
12	that they're proposing to proceed with just so
13	that we have that as a background graphic?
14	TONY BOLDUC: If you can I'll give
15	it a shot if you can let me share the screen.
16	CHAIR NELSON: Sure.
17	TODD LEVINE: Who requested control?
18	TONY BOLDUC: It's Tony.
19	TODD LEVINE: Tony?
20	TONY BOLDUC: Yep.
21	ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: Actually, I have
22	it up on my screen.
23	(Pause: Site map up on shared screen.)
24	TONY BOLDUC: There we go. Does
25	everybody see that all right?

1 CHAIR NELSON: Yes, thank you. 2 BRAD SCHIDE: So -- I'm sorry, Brad 3 Schide, just a question. You guys were planning 4 to do mixed use anyway on those front -- with or 5 without the historic building, so all the change 6 of occupancy and letter from the town would apply to you whether the historic house stayed or not, 7 8 correct? 9 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: That's correct, 10 but it's much more expensive to keep -- to do 11 that on the historic building than it is with new 12 construction. 13 TONY BOLDUC: Well, I got to just back 14 up for that one second. So that letter was only 15 for the existing house. You know, new 16 construction was always under that, you know, the 17 scrutiny of the new building code. 18 BRAD SCHIDE: Correct. So I'm saying 19 that you still have to follow all the codes even 20 if you're doing new construction there. It's a 21 change of use and there's actually nothing there 22 now. 23 My point is the timing, you're kind of 24 arguing that this will take a lot more time and I 25 guess I'm not understanding why this would take

1	more time if you save the building versus doing 4
2	new buildings in the front.
3	TONY BOLDUC: So timing would be back
4	to Planning & Zoning, back to the Health
5	District, the town engineer would have to re-
6	review it, and restoration projects take a lot
7	longer than new construction. So that pushes the
8	timeline out quite a bit.
9	BRAD SCHIDE: So just to clarify then,
10	so you're in Planning & Zoning and you're not
11	showing any buildings along East Main.
12	TONY BOLDUC: Yep. We're showing the 4
13	that are shown on the site plan up on the screen.
14	1, 2, 3 and 4.
15	BRAD SCHIDE: Well, I guess I'm not
16	following. So why would you have to I mean
17	you're already in the process, correct?
18	TONY BOLDUC: Yep.
19	BRAD SCHIDE: With the Health
20	Department and the change of occupancy and the
21	whole thing, right?
22	TONY BOLDUC: Health Department has
23	already approved this. Design Review has
24	approved this and said that any change to this
25	plan will require re-review by them. The same

1	thing with the Health District, any change that
2	we make would be another re-review by them. The
3	town engineer has signed off as of two days ago
4	and they would have to re-review.
5	BRAD SCHIDE: And I'm sorry, one final
6	question. So if the corn crib is removed offsite
7	you could conceivably do the two new buildings on
8	the well, on my right.
9	TONY BOLDUC: Correct.
10	BRAD SCHIDE: And if you kept the
11	historic building in its same place it would be
12	less intense for the Health Department, correct?
13	So it probably would be it would not my
14	point is it would not be more complicated, it
15	would probably be less because you're having less
16	water usage, correct?
17	TONY BOLDUC: It is still I mean
18	less, more, it still requires their review.
19	BRAD SCHIDE: Right, correct. Yes.
20	TONY BOLDUC: Okay.
21	BRAD SCHIDE: Sorry, Sara.
22	TONY BOLDUC: No, no worries.
23	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. So I just want to
24	quickly double check with council. So we at
25	about 12:15 right now. I want to make sure that

1 we asked all the questions that council members 2 So last chance for council member 3 questions and then I want to open this up to the 4 members of the public who've been waiting to 5 speak. CHRISTINE NELSON: Madam Chairman? 6 Yes, Christine. 7 CHAIR NELSON: CHRISTINE NELSON: Christine Nelson. 8 9 So just in terms of the local process it appears 10 that from this conversation they're still in the 11 design permitting, not the construction 12 permitting. So they're not so far along that the 13 conversation of the plans cannot change. I just 14 wanted to point that out. They do not have 15 permits to construct so nothing has been granted They're still in the 16 in terms of construction. 17 design phase. 18 These kinds of changes are very typical 19 and the fact that the public hearing and the 20 process is still open with the local Design 21 Review Board is a good thing for this 22 conversation to continue. 23 I do want to thank the developer for 24 being forthcoming and sharing their due 25 The letter from the building official diligence.

requiring bringing everything up to code for a change of use, it seems like that needs to be explored a little bit more as we go back and forth on whether or not this is actually a change of use.

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Additionally, under the Building Code Section 1201.1.1 there's an exception for historic buildings that I don't feel has been explored correctly. Typically what happens is the developer is able to have a conversation and negotiation if you will on each of the required safety features under the building code and take a look at it in terms of the context of the historic structure. And that's a report that is prepared and I did not see anything along those lines in the package, so I think there's definitely a need to continue this conversation and see if some of that price could be whittled down a little bit to make this a little bit more amenable to you folks. Thanks.

CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Christine.

Todd?

TODD LEVINE: I'll just state our office helps and assists with that with the local building official and the state building official

1	to work through exactly this kind of process. So
2	we would be able to assist you folks on that too.
3	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Thank you, Todd.
4	No other council member hands? All
5	right. Marena, I'd like to start calling on
6	members of the public that signed up to speak.
7	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: Sure. The first
8	person is Peggy Adler.
9	CHAIR NELSON: Peggy oh, hold on one
10	second. Marguerite, you had your hand up?
11	MARGUERITE CARNELL: Yes, I'm sorry. I
12	couldn't quite find the button. I just wanted to
13	request clarification regarding approval of the
14	Design Review Board. On page 46 of the packet I
15	see that Mr. Kravitz had proposed an amendment to
16	the motion as follows: Design Review Board
17	recommends that the Dowd House be incorporated
18	into the final building plans, and then the
19	motion was seconded and it carried unanimously.
20	So I just want a clarification as to
21	whether or not Design Review Board is definitely
22	directing that the Down House be incorporated
23	into the final plans or not.
24	TONY BOLDUC: So I'm going to answer
25	that. So they don't have the authority to make

1	that recommendation. They're just throwing out a
2	recommendation. It's not set in stone. They can
3	only make a recommendation.
4	MARGUERITE CARNELL: Right.
5	CHAIR NELSON: And their recommendation
6	to the Planning & Zoning Commission, correct?
7	TONY BOLDUC: Correct.
8	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.
9	MARGUERITE CARNELL: Okay. So this
10	plan is in opposition to what the Design Review
11	Board has recommended as well as in opposition to
12	the Clinton Historic District Commission has
13	recommended in terms of saving the building.
14	Just want to note that.
15	TONY BOLDUC: Can I comment on that?
16	They also did approve the plans as presented, so
17	I guess it's a mixed signal that they're sending.
18	ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: Actually more than
19	that. It's actually they don't have the legal
20	authority to actually go beyond the design that
21	was presented.
22	MARGUERITE CARNELL: That may be but
23	they still made a recommendation. That was
24	important enough for them to make the
25	recommendation. Just want to note that.

1	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Marguerite.
2	Okay. Marena, you had called
3	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: Peggy Adler.
4	CHAIR NELSON: Ms. Adler?
5	PEGGY ADLER: Yes. Did you still want
6	to site plan up on the
7	CHAIR NELSON: If it is of benefit to
8	any of you we can continue or if not we can close
9	it.
10	PEGGY ADLER: No benefit to me, I don't
11	know about the others.
12	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.
13	TONY BOLDUC: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
14	whether she said take it down or not.
15	CHAIR NELSON: She said
16	PERRY ADLER: No, I would prefer to
17	have it take down, but can you hear me?
18	CHAIR NELSON: Yes.
19	TONY BOLDUC: Yes. All right, I'm
20	going to take it down now.
21	PEGGY ADLER: I'm Peggy Adler. I live
22	at 5 Liberty Street here in Clinton and I'm the
23	person who created the online petition to save
24	151 East Main Street which to date has over 780
25	signatures. And of the first 390, 272 were of

Clinton residents and I'm offended by the fact that Attorney Ainsworth would even imply that they might have bogus.

I am not opposed to the applicant's proposed development in general but am opposed to the demolition of the house at 151 East Main Street in particular. This house is on the United States Department of Interior and National Park National Service, National Register of Historic Places, is in the United States Department of Interior and National Park Historic District and is in the Clinton Planning & Zoning Commission's regulations as the East Main Street Village District.

Present day Clinton has an amazing number of 17th, 18th and 19th century buildings still standing which are listed in the United States Department of Interior's Department of Parks National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended established the National Register of Historic Places. The act authorizes the United States Secretary of the Interior to maintain and expand a National Register district sites, buildings, structures and objects significant to

American history. Administration of the National Register of Historic Places is as I stated before by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service.

Clinton, Connecticut's Clinton Village
Historic District established under the National
Register Registration Act is comprised of 144
contributing buildings, two structures, two
sites, six objects for a total of 154 resources.
These recourses can be found on Clinton's
Cemetery Road, Church Street, East Main Street,
Liberty Street, Old Post Road and Waterside Lane.

The authentication process spanned many years of study done by historic resource consultants and was followed by a review by the State's Historic Commission. In Clinton's case it is known that the photographs of the candidates for the district were taken approximately 1980 and the consultant's report is dated March 25, 1994.

The following East Main Street

buildings are in the aforementioned Clinton

Village Historic District and were originally

built as single-family dwelling units, but each

today houses a business on the first floor and

some an apartment or two on the second floor. 50

East Main Street, built 1710, Chamber of

Commerce. 79 East Main Street, built 1900,

Milone Chiropractor. 104 East Main Street, 1763,

the White Dress Bridal Shop. And 130 East Main

Street, built 1735, law offices.

These are just a few and as you can see they were successfully repurposed while retaining their historic significance. For example, energy efficient windows are available that have divided panes just like the ones in the 17 and 1800s and look just like the originals.

Thus, rather than allow the demolition of 151 East Main in order for a structure to be built in its stead which might not be as sturdily constructed and would be required to conform to Clinton's Planning & Zoning regulation at Section 15 by meeting all of the architectural standards of the East Main Street Village District, I respectfully request that the applicant be required to renovate the interior of 151 East Main Street with the building remaining in place on its current foundation in order to accommodate the offices and apartments they are planning for that building's replacement. Thank you.

1	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Ms. Adler.
2	Marena, who is the second person?
3	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: Alan Kravitz.
4	CHAIR NELSON: You're on mute, Mr.
5	Kravitz.
6	TONY BOLDUC: Alan, you're on mute.
7	(Pause.)
8	ALAN KRAVITZ: Here we go. You're on?
9	TONY BOLDUC: We can hear you.
10	ALAN KRAVITZ: I'm going to refrain if
11	I might from reading what I wrote because a lot
12	of what I dealt with is covered, has been
13	covered. I'd just like to emphasize that this is
14	not just the house, this is a house that's part
15	of a larger development project and the property
16	was critical for access, the property in question
17	was critical for providing access to these units.
18	There is a secondary access point over
19	an easement but it's kind of the potential for
20	another access point over the easement that was
21	granted. And it seems to me we're dealing with
22	an application for a large development and a
23	relatively dense large development, very tight
24	large development which maximizes development on
25	the site. And there should be some consideration

1	in evaluating the historic structure in terms of
2	cost because it was so the site is so critical
3	to the functionality of the project.
4	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Kravitz.
5	And you have a written statement which you
6	ALAN KRAVITZ: I have a written
7	statement. I should disclose I am a member of
8	the Design Review Board and of the Planning &
9	Zoning Commission.
10	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you for clarifying
11	your relationships and, yes, please forward that
12	statement to the office for our files.
13	Marena, the next person?
14	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: Megan Stine.
15	MEGAN STINE: Thank you. I am a past
16	president and current board member of the Clinton
17	Historical Society and a former member for 7
18	years of the Historic District Commission. And I
19	was asked to write a letter on behalf of the
20	Clinton Historic Society which I have done and
21	you have in your packet. I was asked to read
22	that but I'm not going to read the entire thing
23	again in interest of time and because you have
24	that information. But I want to read part of it

and before I do I just want to make a few notes.

25

There seems to have been a question about whether the house number is 151 or 153. We referenced the house as 151 East Main which is what it shows up as on vision appraisal. We are talking about the house when we advocate for preservation. And although of course we'd be happy to see the corn crib preserved we are not advocating for preservation of the corn crib on the site. That wasn't part of our advocacy.

Secondly, just a quick not that Mr.

Ainsworth referred to the signatures on

Change.org, absolutely I take exception with the question of whether those are legitimate signatures as well. We sent out a notice once

Peggy Adler had initiated the petition to all of our members and immediately there were a great many responses. We got emails as well as we know that those members of ours -- we have over 300 members who always respond about preservation issues and they signed that petition.

And the third thing is that Mr.

Ainsworth said that this building stands along as if -- and that the Historic District was jerrymandered. If it stands alone, and I don't believe that it does as a historic resource, that

would be because of lack of preservation. That's exactly the problem here. When things are lost then suddenly you have new building in between with old districts and that's exactly our concern.

I just want to read a bid of my letter.

In addition to its architectural integrity and historical value this house has enormous importance to the residents of Clinton by virtue of the contribution it makes to our historic streetscape. As is true in many small towns throughout Connecticut historic houses and buildings are the essential elements that give our town its beauty and identity. When these properties are destroyed one by one the character of the village slips away and can never be replaced.

Clinton residents are deeply aware of the value of preserving our historical resources.

We take pride in have a greater number of historic structures remaining intact along our Main Street than any of the other neighboring shoreline towns in this part of Connecticut.

In recent years when older buildings on Main Street were threatened with destruction to

make room for commercial development many of the 200 members of the Clinton Historical Society along with other like-minded citizens wrote to us asking us to take the lead in advocating for preservation. As a result of citizen involvement a condominium development at 159 East Main Street was granted permission to go forward only on condition that the small 1720 house be preserved rather than torn down.

In the most recent effort more than 500 people showed up at multiple Planning & Zoning meetings to express their hopes that historic buildings would be preserved. Solutions that allow economic progress and historic preservation to co-exist seem like the best of both worlds to us.

Let me be clear in saying that we are not opposed to the development of condominiums on this property and do not wish to stand in the way of economic development. Rather we urge the developer to preserve the federal style house and incorporate it into the project instead of tearing it down. The character of our small New England town, it's charm and appeal rely heavily on the historic houses and public buildings --

1	MARENA WISNEIWSKI: One minute.
2	MEGAN STINE: we work so hard to
3	preserve. And once these buildings are gone, the
4	rich heritage and appeal of our town will be lost
5	forever. And frankly I just will add that
6	disadvantages the developer as well. So we ask
7	you to help us seek protection for the house at
8	151 East Main in Clinton so that we can preserve
9	an essential historical resource. And I thank
10	you very much.
11	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Ms. Stine.
12	Marena, who is the next person?
13	MARENA WISNEIWSKI: Jake Clinton.
14	JAKE CLINTON: Thank you.
15	I should point out that I am now a
16	member of the historical Clinton Historical
17	Society as an alternate member. I was sworn in
18	last week.
19	I'm not going to read my letter
20	totally. I would ask that it be included in the
21	record though, dated February 10^{th} .
22	I think it's very important that the
23	architectural integrity of 151 East Main Street
24	in Clinton be preserved. It's part of our
25	history, built 220 years ago.

I take issue with Mr. Ainsworth's point about jerrymandering in that right round on Route 145 around the corner there is also a period piece house that has been reconditioned. And so the historic district is what it is, it runs from the river to roughly 145. And actually I would point out that Mr. Ainsworth's comments about some of the structures across the street, the bank and that, those were repurposed, unfortunately, and weren't saved. And there's several buildings that that, you know, they don't fit in the district because there was no concern about saving the historical importance of buildings along the stretch of Main Street. The motels would not be built in today's guidelines, as my home at 135 East Main would not be built today either. But I love that I live in the I moved back here from California when district. I retired after 40 years on the West Coast. came home to Clinton, I love this town and I want to see that the history of this town is preserved. I'm not against the development. think it's over -- there may be too many units in there but that's for Planning & Zoning to take a

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1	look at. I'm just trying to express my concern
2	that it's important that we save and protect our
3	community. And I think you for the moment.
4	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Clinton.
5	Marena, who is the next person?
6	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: Gloria McQueeney.
7	GLORIA McQUEENEY: Hi. I'm just I'm
8	the Clerk for the Historic District Commission in
9	Clinton and I'm going to read a letter that the
10	Historic Commission asked me to present.
11	The letter was dated February 18, 2021
12	and addressed to Todd Levine, State of
13	Connecticut.
14	Regarding the preservation of 151 East
15	Main Street, Clinton, Connecticut, the Clinton
16	Historic District Commission hereby supports
17	saving the home located at 151 East Main Street,
18	Clinton, which is listed on the National Register
19	of Historic Places and is also part of the East
20	Main Street Village District in Clinton.
21	Sincerely, the Clinton Historic District
22	Commission.
23	And we copied Mike Rossi, Chairman,
24	Town of Clinton Planning & Zoning. Thank you.
25	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Ms.

1	McQueeney.
2	Marena, the next person?
3	MARENA WISNIEWSKI: And the last person
4	to sign up is Bob Bishoff.
5	CHAIR NELSON: Mr. Bishoff, are you on
6	the line? You may be muted.
7	PEGGY ADLER: He may have had he has
8	a 1:20 appointment to get his first vaccination
9	so and his vaccination is up in Middletown.
10	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.
11	All right. Is there anybody whose name
12	that we are not aware of who joined the meeting
13	to speak to this agenda item?
14	MS. McQUEENEY: I do have a copy of the
15	letter that Bob Bishoff wrote. If you want I can
16	read that. It was submitted though I believe.
17	TODD LEVINE: Yeah, we have a copy of
18	it. It's in the packet in fact.
19	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. All right. So no
20	other people to speak to this agenda item? All
21	right.
22	The time I'm just checking, so the
23	time right now is 12:30, I know for certain we
24	have a quorum until 12:45. Council members, I'd
25	like to ask you if there are missing pieces of

information, questions that you have that you need further information on before a deliberation or whether you have learned enough from today's proceedings to enable the -- and to make this easiest why don't I just do this in -- this is whether you have enough information to render a decision.

Marguerite Carnell?

MARGUERITE CARNELL: Well, I guess if push comes to shove I suppose so, but I guess I would like more information and more time. I just feel like this whole process is very rushed. You know, we're talking about a house that's 220 years old and there's this project schedule that's driving everything and I really would like to see everybody step back and take some extra time to fully explore all of the options. Because as Ms. Adler said, you know, once the house is gone, it's gone and there's no getting it back. So I would really advocate for some more time to let Preservation Connecticut's team do its work.

CHAIR NELSON: Let me just jump in for a second. Mr. Ainsworth, can you answer whether your owner, your client, would be willing to

1 delay the demolition of the house to facilitate a 2 more comprehensive review of some of the things 3 that we've discussed at the meeting today? 4 ATTORNEY AINSWORTH: I would want to 5 consult with my client but having had some discussions on this topic before, at the moment, 6 no. We are moving ahead with our project as it 7 8 We have taken into account SHPO's 9 suggestions, we've done some analysis that they 10 requested. In fact we've done everything that 11 they've requested and that's what we came here --12 we presented everything that they requested us to 13 do. And so... 14 Okay. Thank you. CHAIR NELSON: 15 will just continue. As council members identify 16 things they may just keep asking you some 17 questions. 18 So thank you, Marguerite, for that 19 valuable input. 20 Margaret Faber? 21 MARGARET FABER: Yeah, I feel like I do 22 have enough information to refer this to the 23 Attorney General and I think by being with the 24 Attorney General that more time will be afforded 25 to look into these matters.

1	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Thank you,			
2	Margaret.			
3	Karyn?			
4	KARYN GILVARG: I have enough			
5	information to make a decision on this matter.			
6	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.			
7	Christine Nelson?			
8	CHRISTINE NELSON: I think I would have			
9	liked to have seen a little bit more information			
10	about the costs but given the lack of willingness			
11	to postpone the delay I'm ready to act today in			
12	accordance with what we have been asked to do.			
13	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.			
14	Sara Sportman?			
15	SARA SPORTMAN: Yes. While this			
16	process does seem incredibly rushed and it would			
17	be good to have more time and more information, I			
18	think that it is possible to vote today.			
19	CHAIR NELSON: Okay.			
20	And Walter Woodward?			
21	WALTER WOODWARD: Same thing. I'd like			
22	more information on costs but I am prepared to			
23	vote.			
24	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. Council members,			
25	in addition to more information on costs, are			

there -- anything else that you wish to highlight as contributing to your decision-making today?

Okay. Karyn Gilvarg.

KARYN GILVARG: Yes. You know, at a

very sort of abstract level I want to echo what

Margaret, Megan Stine and the other folks from

the Clinton Historical Commission said. I think

part of the value of the site on East Main Street

is its location in a historic district, which I

think is important to the town and important

frankly to marketing the town and to marketing

any future units on this site. And so there's an

irony to have the development team want to

destroy one of the very assets that makes the

site valuable. I just want to make that comment.

CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Karyn.

Do council members have any other questions or comments they'd like to make?

Christine?

CHRISTINE NELSON: I'd like to make a comment also just in terms of the historic resources, it's not just the two structures but it's the district itself and the streetscape that is defined by this density of houses and the pattern of houses along the street. And as the

1	person from town pointed out that in the past			
2	there hadn't been an appreciation for that and so			
3	there was a loss and degradation of that scene			
4	and this process is exactly how we continue to			
5	review that and how to maintain the integrity of			
6	the scene. And I feel like that loss of this			
7	building would be a destruction and at this point			
8	it has not been made an argument hasn't been			
9	made that it can be reasonably avoided.			
10	CHAIR NELSON: Thank you, Christine.			
11	Any other council members?			
12	Okay. So let me just go back and I			
13	want to read the motion again. What you would be			
14	voting on is that the Connecticut Historic			
15	Preservation Council votes to request the			
16	assistance of the Office of the Attorney General			
17	to prevent the unreasonable destruction of the			
18	historic properties at 151 and 153 East Main			
19	Street, Clinton, Connecticut pursuant to the			
20	provisions of Sections 22a and 19a of the			
21	Connecticut General Statutes.			
22	Okay. So that is the motion before us			
23	on a roll call vote.			
24	To refer, Margarite Carnell?			
25	MARGARITE CARNELL: Aye, to refer to			

1	the Attorney General.	
2	CHAIR NELSON: Margaret Faber?	
3	MARGARET FABER: Aye.	
4	CHAIR NELSON: Karyn Gilvarg?	
5	KARYN GILVARG: Aye, to refer.	
6	CHAIR NELSON: Christine Nelson?	
7	CHRISTINE NELSON: Aye.	
8	CHAIR NELSON: Sara Nelson, abstain.	
9	Sara Sportman?	
10	SARA SPORTMAN: Aye.	
11	CHAIR NELSON: And Walter Woodward?	
12	Walter, you're on mute.	
13	WALTER WOODWARD: Sorry. Can you hear	
14	me?	
15	CHAIR NELSON: Now we can.	
16	WALTER WOODWARD: Aye.	
17	CHAIR NELSON: Okay. So the motion	
18	passes unanimously. The motion was to refer to	
19	the Office of the Attorney General.	
20	Todd, you will follow up with Mr.	
21	Ainsworth and the owner's team to kind of outline	
22	the process from this point forward.	
23	TODD LEVINE: Yes, I shall.	
24	CHAIR NELSON: For all of you who are	
25	visitors today I want to thank you for your time,	

1	for staying through this meeting. Your			
2	perspective was very helpful to hear, and your			
3	records, your letters, your comments that have			
4	been submitted will be in the record itself for			
5	our meeting.			
6	All right. So the last remaining			
7	business is to actually adjourn Part 2 of the			
8	meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?			
9	CHRISTINE NELSON: So moved.			
10	Christine.			
11	CHAIR NELSON: And a second?			
12	MARGARET FABER: Second, Margaret.			
13	CHAIR NELSON: Margaret. Okay, thank			
14	you.			
15	On a roll call vote to adjourn.			
16	Marguerite Carnell?			
17	MARGARITE CARNELL: Aye.			
18	CHAIR NELSON: Margaret Faber?			
19	MARGARET FABER: Aye.			
20	CHAIR NELSON: Karyn Gilvarg?			
21	KARYN GILVARG: Aye.			
22	CHAIR NELSON: Christine Nelson.			
23	CHRISTINE NELSON: Aye.			
24	CHAIR NELSON: Sara Nelson, abstain.			
25	Sara Sportman?			

1	SARA SPORTMAN: Aye.			
2	CHAIR NELSON: And Walter Woodward.			
3	WALTER WOODWARD: Aye.			
4	CHAIR NELSON: All right. Council			
5	members, thank you for your time as well. And we			
6	will next see each other the first Wednesday of			
7	April. Thank you.			
8	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off record at 12:43			
9	p.m.			
10	(Proceedings concluded: 12:43 p.m.)			
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CERTIFICATE			
I hereby certify that the foregoing 81			
pages are a complete and accurate transcription			
to the best of my ability of the electronic			
recording of the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL			
MEETING held before Sara Nelson, Chair, via Zoom			
Videoconference connection on March 3, 2021.			
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Ly	game Benoit		
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uza	nne Benoit, Transcriber	Date: 03/10/2021	