

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL MEETING  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 @ 9:30 am**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams (see code for meeting in your email or contact Jonathan. [Kinney@ct.gov](mailto:Kinney@ct.gov) for the code)

**MINUTES**

**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, Dr. Daryn Reyman-Lock, Ms. Priyanka Panjwani, Ms. Susan Patrick, Mr. Justin Rosen, Ms. Lynn Sadosky, Mr. Chris Wigren, and Ms. Abby

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 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. There were none.

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

A. Minutes – October 8, 2025

On a motion by Ms. Acly, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Council voted to approve the October 8, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted.

*(Y-7, N-0, Abstaining-4, Absent-0, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

## V. State Historic Preservation Grants – Action Items

### A. Unfinished Action Items

#### 1. Survey and Planning Grant, Plainfield Grave Guardians Association, National Register Nomination for Plainfield Cemetery, Plainfield

On a motion by Ms. Burgess, 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-7, N-1, Abstaining-3, Absent-0, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)

Applicant: Plainfield Grave Guardians Association, Inc.

Amount: \$3,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The applicant was originally awarded \$14,000 for this project in March of 2024. The applicant hired a consultant for \$14,000. However, the initial work was wholly insufficient, and the applicant released the consultant, but not before having to pay \$3000 for what the consultant claimed was due to him.

The applicant hired a second consultant who also had bid \$14,000. The budget is the same, but the organization doesn't have the capacity to fundraise the \$3000. They are now coming back for an additional \$3,000. The cap for Survey and Planning grants is \$20,000, so this won't exceed the maximum available to them. They do need this extra \$3,000.

Dr. Horowitz and Dr. Glaser did not agree with having to pay another consultant when the first consultant's work was authorized and this product was not acceptable.

Ms. Acly asked if there was any assurance this would not happen again. Ms. Dunne replied that the Survey and Planning grants are largely reimbursable grants, meaning SHPO does not pay the applicant until they have paid the consultant.

When we got the work, the applicant had already paid the consultant and so we paid the applicant. However, moving forward, SHPO has decided to become stricter about that payment process. The applicants will be instructed not to pay consultants until they get the green light from us and whatever has been produced is adequate. SHPO generally does not refund an entire project until it's completed and paid for by the applicant and it is reviewed. There have been cases where she did not pay the applicant until the consultant rectified whatever it was she wasn't satisfied with. Moving forward, this will just be a case of being more diligent and

making sure the applicant understands that SHPO will not pay them until everything has been reviewed and approved.

Dr. Horowitz asked for clarity on what can or cannot be discussed with the Council. Ms. Dunne did not want to name the consultant in a public meeting, but did mention the cost is still below the cap. She would like the project funded and there are procedures in place so this will not happen again.

Dr. Glaser wanted to make sure all this information was communicated to the new consultant, so they did not have to start from scratch. The different people buried there, the criteria consideration described, the significance of the cemetery, not based on the burials, but based on the design of the cemetery and the community involved in the history behind the development of that cemetery, she assumed is why Ms. Scofield and Ms. Wisniewski approved it for National Register nominations.

Ms. Scofield added that that nomination is already on the agenda for the December 5th State Review Board meeting with multiple areas of significance. I have a full State Review Board ready draft of the nomination for the Plainfield Cemetery. To clarify, as state employees, we cannot give specific recommendations for consultants. We cannot steer the process in any way, and we cannot speak poorly in a public forum about specific consultants. We do have a consultant list, the requirements of being on that list are having the qualifications. We can remove someone for performing poorly, but that's about the maximum of our control.

## **B. New Action Items**

### **1. Survey and Planning Grant, Town of North Haven, Construction Level Plans and Specifications for the Renovation of the Martha Culver House, North Haven**

On a motion by Ms. Acly, second by Ms. Rhodes, 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-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Applicant: Town of North Haven  
Amount: \$20,000

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The Town of North Haven requested funding in the amount of \$20,000 to obtain the consulting Services of a CFR-Qualified Historical Architect to prepare construction-level

plans and specifications for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Martha Culver House. The applicant was awarded a Survey and Planning grant a few years ago to do a condition assessment and they're now moving into doing the work recommended in the assessment. The house is not currently in service, so SHPO would like to help fund the plans and specs with a non-matching grant. Ms. Lynn Sadowski, from the town of North Haven, was on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Ms. Sadowski thanked SHPO for the funding. The Town also applied for Community Project Funding through Representative Rosa Delora's office and secured funding for the rehabilitation of the Martha Culver House. They went through the RFP process to select a historical architect. They met with several historical architects as a team, which consisted of town staff as well as members of the Historical Society and Museums Board. After meeting with four different firms, they selected Silver Petrucelli. They have preliminary drawings, but Ms. Dunne was very clear about holding any final designs.

The money awarded from the Community Project Funds was short roughly by a couple hundred thousand dollars. They are finding that they are short on a lot of fronts, whether it's final design, construction, or administration. If awarded, SHPO has made it clear to put the brakes on what Silver Petrucelli are doing in the hopes that they could share that with the Council today and get additional funding for final design.

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

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

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

#### **1. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places, Clark and Miles Stowe Barn, 68 Stowe Avenue, Milford**

*On a motion by Mr. Elmore. second by Ms. Ms. Carnell, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Clark and Miles Stowe Barn, located at 68 Stowe Avenue, Milford, to the State Register of Historic Places.*

*(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application. Staff recommended approval of the listing of the Clark and Miles Stowe Barn, located at 68 Stowe Avenue, Milford, to the State Register of Historic Places under Criterion 1, at the local level, in the area of community development, as one of the last remaining agricultural resources on the shoreline within the city of Milford and under Criterion 2, at the local level, as an intact example of an English bank barn, as described within the Connecticut Historic Barns context, with decorative stick style elements incorporated.

The property maintains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association as an agricultural barn. Dr. Daryn Reyman-Lock, who wrote the nomination, was on the call to answer any questions or concerns. Susan Patrick, City of Milford, and owner of the property who has been

a champion of the barn and its history and getting it recognized for at least a decade, was also on the call.

Mr. Elmore commented that this was a great application. He requested that the date of the nomination be added and that the barn be called out on a site plan since the site is new to him. Chairman Butkus asked for the listing of the photographs to be checked.

Mr. Justin Rosen, Chief of Staff for the City of Milford, commended Ms. Patrick for being such a great champion and thanked everyone for taking the time to review this property. It is a real gem in the community and he believes this is a great step forward as we work to restore the property.

## **2. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places, Mallett-Goodsell Homestead and Hopewell District Schoolhouse, 141 Poverty Hollow, Newtown**

*On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Dr. Horowitz, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Mallett-Goodsell Homestead and Hopewell District Schoolhouse, located at 141 Poverty Hollow, Newtown, to the State Register of Historic Places.*

*(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-0, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application. Staff recommended approval of listing of the Mallet, Goodsell Homestead and Hopewell District Schoolhouse, located at 141 Poverty Hollow, Newtown, to the State Register of Historic Places under Criterion 1, at the local level, in the area of community development as representative examples of this area of Newtown at the turn of the 19th century and under Criterion 2, at the local level, as a vernacular Georgian home and schoolhouse, with the house undergoing later 19th century modifications. The property maintains its integrity of location, setting design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association of an early 19th century school and farm. Dr. Daryn Reyman-Lock, who wrote the nomination, and owner Ms. Abby Kendi, we on the call to answer any questions or concerns.

Chairman Butkus clarified that the property is proposed to be listed as a district and not an individual building.

Dr. Glaser asked about the educational history of that area. Dr. Reyman-Lock has become the resident expert on schoolhouses in the western portion of Connecticut. She replied that there were not a lot of other schoolhouses around this area. This one was economically disenfranchised, and it has been closed since 1949, although people have made efforts to maintain the building, it's still something people pass and acknowledge. It does fit in with the general development of history of education that we see in western Connecticut.

Ms. Wisniewski answered Dr. Glaser's comment about this being an issue that has been talked about with the Council every time schoolhouses comes up that and that it would be great to have someone write the actual historical context for them. In addition, what we often see with these schoolhouses is that we do have

these later alterations and modifications that, because the buildings are typically so small, those changes really can affect their integrity. SHPO is hoping that, in the future, we can get someone, maybe our statewide partner, maybe a regional partner, maybe a COG, to apply and have them do this larger regional context about schoolhouses to get a better handle on what we're working with. Dr. Reyman-Lock does a lot of work on these projects.

Dr. Horowitz welcomed this nomination and asked about the current situation and use of the buildings, or any imagined near-term future use for this schoolhouse that has been sitting vacant for a while. He is glad to see this application and just wanted to encourage the owner to continue to be ambitious and know that she has something special here and that this will probably repay her attention to it.

Dr. Reyman-Lock added the schoolhouse right now is not in use at all. It does need some preservation work and some restoration, which the owner, Ms. Abby Kendi has certainly begun looking into. There is a lot of community support for that, and the idea is to restore it and put it back into some sort of educational use. Ms. Abby put boards over the window to make sure that there's no vandalism. She herself has been inside of the building and the bones are still good. There is some work that needs to be done on the building envelope, but it would be nice to see it restored and returned to service for the community because it is something that is very much viewable on a public road as people drive past it.

Ms. Acly asked how these parcels get combined and what the history of that is. Does it make sense to include a sentence about how they're all in one, all in one property at this point, just so that somebody in the future could know that there wasn't necessarily a connection other than proximity between the house and the schoolhouse historically, just it was.

Dr. Reyman-Lock replied, Ms. Abby Kendi is very aware, her parents owned the house, and they were the ones that bought the school building from the town.

### **3. Listing to the State Register of Historic Places, Daniel Olmsted House/The Mowings, 153 Wickham Road, East Haddam**

*On a motion by Dr. Glaser, second by Ms. Acly, the Historic Preservation Council voted to list the Daniel Olmsted House/The Meadows, located at 153 Wickham Road, East Haddam, to the State Register of Historic Places.*

*(Y-10, N-0, Abstaining-1, Absent-, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

Ms. Wisniewski presented this application. Staff recommended approval of listing of the Daniel Olmsted House, also known as the Mowings or the Heinz and Jesse Warneke House, located at 153 Wickham Road, East Haddam, to the State Register of Historic Places under Criterion 1, at the state level, in the area of art for its association with Heinz Warneke during the mid-20th century. It is also significant under Criterion 2, at the local level, as an outstanding example of an 18th century building type which was reused in the mid-20th century by an artist interested in historic restoration. The property is already listed on the National

Register as part of the Wickham Road Historic District. However, Warneke's contribution to the property is not recognized due to the period of significance being the mid-20th century. So, therefore, the outbuildings that are associated where he did most of his important work including work on the National Cathedral, are listed as non-contributing. Mr. Christopher Wigren, from Preservation Connecticut, was on the call to answer any questions or concerns. Preservation Connecticut is in the process of receiving a historic easement on the property and can help answer any questions.

Ms. Acly asked to check the spelling of Olmsted and the approximate date of the house's construction. Mr. Wigren commented he was at a little bit of a disadvantage because the building is already on the National Register and the text of this was prepared by his colleague, Ms. Charlotte Hitchcock, a few years ago. He has updated a few of the matters in the text and took new photographs. He has seen baking ovens in the back of the fireplace up into the middle of the 18th century.

Dr. Horowitz asked for clarification on whether Mr. Warneke lived in the house up until his passing. Also, it would help to add what inspired his work and what made him chose to commute back and forth to New York instead of living there. He stopped his art at one time and became a farmer. Mr. Elmore asked what other artists were commuting back and forth from home to their studios around that time, which seemed like a popular thing to do. To sum up, add an addendum to add these points.

Ms. Wisniewski read aloud a letter from Chairman Will Brady, East Haddam Historic District Commission affirming the application.

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

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

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

#### **1. Local Historic District Study Report, Strickland Road Historic District Expansion, Greenwich**

On a motion by Mr. McCoy, second by Ms. Acly, Pursuant to CGS §7-147c, the Historic Preservation Council brought this item to the table for discussion.

Ms. Dunne presented this application. The applicant has asked that this item be tabled until the December meeting in order to provide time to gather additional information. Mr. Elmore stated he had a hard time following the application. The images were very small. Chairman Butkus asked for clarity on the boundaries incorporated in 1997.

On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Ms. Acly, the Historic Preservation Council voted to table this application until the December 10, 2025 Historic Preservation Council meeting.

*(Y-9, N-0, Abstaining-2, Absent-, Recused-0) (Roll call vote)*

## **VIII. Archaeological Preserves**

## **IX. Threatened Properties - CEPA Updates**

## **X. Preservation Restrictions**

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

Mr. Kinney reported on the most recent preservation activity at the federal level. Last Wednesday, there was a hearing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which was a review of the Federal Section 106 process, SHPOs federal regulatory process. It was discussed within the framework of this administration's attempts to seek efficiencies in the federal permitting process. There was an overarching discussion of 106 and what that looked like. It was a fairly balanced discussion with some comments from Senators about unnecessary delays or increased costs resulting from the 106 process combined with discussion of the overall importance, flexibility, and efficiency of the process. They had three witnesses testify during the bearing, one was the State Historic Preservation Officer from Utah, one was a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and one was a representative from a utility company, representing the applicants in the process.

Preservation Action, or the National Trust, is hosting a webinar on November 19th at noon about defending the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 106. This webinar seems to be in direct response to the recent Senate hearing.

Another church in New London has become structurally compromised. This is the Second Congregational Church and another amazing stone building. We have received word from the city that there is the potential that it may be condemned very soon. We are moving quickly to try to address that situation and get somebody in there. We have reached out to Preservation Connecticut for a TAC grant, which is a quick way to get somebody into the building to do an evaluation. Ms. Acly has agreed to do that later this week. We are going to move quickly to see if we can provide some guidance to the city in the hopes that we can get a stay on that condemnation and maybe get some resources into that building to avoid demolition, but this is an imminent threat. The church address is 45 Broad Street and the issue is with the steeple specifically. There was a conditions assessment done a few years back in January of 2023 and we do have a copy of that we're reviewing. Ms. Acly added they did significant investigation after the First Congregational Church in New London collapse. There's definitely a connection with granite buildings near the ocean. We could see some potential distress in this building.

Mr. Elmore asked if the ConnCris meeting can be recorded so he can view it later. Ms. Scofield was hosting the meeting and will send the PowerPoint/live demo to Mr. Elmore. Mr. Kinney added that we can set up a lunchtime overview for Council members in the near future.



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

### **Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine:**

Ms. Shapiro reported that Old New-Gate had a fabulous season with 13,600 visitors and the 4th Jack O' Lantern event was a roaring success with 6,300 visitors just in the month of October. Staff have selected a contractor for the Cell block / Retaining Wall Stabilization (SAT Grant) and are in the CD phase for Viets Tavern (SEMI Grant).

### **Eric Sloane Museum:**

- 2026 is the 200th anniversary of Kent Iron Furnace. Staff is working on the creation of our iron smelting programs, expansion of interpretation, and related museum collection.
- Continued partnership with TradesUp. Kids summer workshops, weekend trades day events and larger Spark festival. Free Programs for around 3,500 people since 2022 at SHPO sites.
- Expansion of successful craft and trade workshops hosted at the museum. Timber framing, blacksmithing, etc.
- Interest in campus development to meet needs of community and enhance museum's educational impact.
- Growth of original art collection

### **Prudence Crandall:**

- National Cat Day – October 27, 2025 (yearly) recognized by the museum by collecting donations of cat food for a local feline shelter, in exchange for free admission to the museum. We hosted 4 tours, one of which was a private tour of Autistic adults from a program in Sturbridge, MA, who brought lots of cat supplies and enjoyed their tour very much. We do this to mark the fact that one of the instances of violence against the school was to put a dead cat into the museum's well, poisoning the water.
- 11/3/25 (former Newberry Awards committee—librarians): “the banners were thoughtfully written—really appreciated the APA guidelines acknowledgement.”
- “Phenomenal job knowing and relaying a complicated story with a lot of different players.”
- Her group of retired Adventurous Women had a wonderful tour of the Prudence Crandall House with Joanie today. She is astonishingly good – enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and engaging. They spent a large part of lunch afterwards raving about what a great job Joanie did, how little we had known about Prudence Crandall beforehand, and how to make more people in the state aware of her.

### **Henry Whitfield State Museum:**

- In October, the Whitfield Museum had over 700 visitors and 2 successful events with Chocolate the 18th Century Way and hosted a meet-and-greet during the Gilmore Girls Fan Fest held in Guilford.
- The heating system replacement project continues to move forward with the 1105 completed and DEEP beginning preparation of an MOU
- The Semiquincentennial Grant Whitfield House Rehabilitation Project is moving forward with the electrical work out to bid and PSA request and RFP for the contractor work being prepared.

### **Museum Collections:**

Ms. Shapiro reported that staff continues to work to enhance the holdings, acquiring new items through donations, with several new items currently being considered, including:

- Several original Eric Sloane pen and ink drawings
- A set of enamelware cookware made by Delano Studios in the 1970s with Eric Sloane (licensed) Americana imagery.
- Commemorative / souvenir items from the Henry Whitfield Museum and Old New-Gate Prison from the early 20th century (c. 1900)
- New acquisitions require cataloging in our Collections Management database. Eventually these items will be available online at the Public Portal of [www.ctcollections.org](http://www.ctcollections.org).

In addition to receiving new collections, staff have also been working on:

- Providing accurate inventories for the Risk Management staff at DAS to ensure our collections are insured.
- Working with individuals and other museums on loan agreements, both incoming and outgoing
- Working with staff to provide more secure and stable environments for our collections
- Inquiring about conservation of our more fragile items (such as the Prudence Crandall Sampler)
- And when not doing all those things, assisting site staff with tours, special events, etc.

Staff also continue to inventory and evaluate the collections at the Prudence Crandall Museum and Old New-Gate Prison to better fulfill their missions. Speaking of New-Gate, we were recently selected to participate in the Connecticut League of Museums, NHPRC Finding Aid Grant Project. A traveling archivist will assist staff in creating aids for parts of our archival collections. These finding aids will assist researchers in identifying materials located in New-Gate archival collections. And these finding aids will be available on the Public Portal of Connecticut Collections.

Lastly, the Prudence Crandall Sampler has been returned from conservation. The Textile Conservation Workshop provided a detailed examination report with recommendations. It was decided to proceed. TCW Staff cleaned, mended and framed the sampler. They also removed and preserved the paper backing it was originally adhered to, which included several newspaper clippings about Crandall, and some of her poetry written in her hand. The clippings and other items could not be removed without significant damage, so it was

decided to take photographs of all items and encapsulate the backing, preserving the information. A “pocket” was attached to the back of the frame, so the materials can remain together. A detailed report of the work that was done was also provided. We are extremely happy with the outcome, and we are now looking for our next project.

### **XIII. Old Business**

### **XIV. New Business**

### **XV. Liaison with Public & Private Agencies – Jan Montanaro**

Ms. Montanaro reported that the annual meeting for Connecticut Preservation Action is going to be on Tuesday, November 18th, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Elm City Club in New Haven. The meeting will include the election of officers and directors, a business meeting which includes discussing legislative priorities for the next session, and a nice chance to chat and network with one another. Mr. Patrick McMahon has been posting links on LinkedIn and Facebook. Tickets will be \$25.

Preservation Connecticut’s partnership grant program with the 1772 Foundation is open. Those are \$10,000 maintenance and repair grants for museums, historical societies, and nonprofits. This is a nice matching grant program for state grant projects. There’s a portal on their website. This is a new grant portal that they are sharing with Connecticut Humanities. Applicants are asked to put their letters of inquiry into that portal before December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Tomorrow, November 6, 2025, is Preservation Connecticut’s Golden Anniversary celebration at the Lounsbury House in Ridgefield, CT. She is grateful to Council members who have purchased tickets and provided sponsorships to the event. Looking forward to having a nice evening there tomorrow night and looking forward to seeing many of you there. Everyone was thanked for their support.

### **XVI. Public Forum**

### **XVII. Adjournment**

*On a motion by Mr. Elmore, second by Mr. McCoy, this meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.*

**Submitted respectfully by:  
Deborah D. Gaston**

***Next regularly scheduled Council meeting:  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025 – Meeting Format TBD***