

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a meeting from the Wethersfield Town Hall, Conference Room #3, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut on February 24, 2026.

Members Present: Chris Lyons, Vice Chairperson
Chris Hall, Clerk
Peter Benson
Bruce Cutkomp, Alternate
Thomas Magnoli, Jr., Alternate
Andrea Rapacz, Alternate

Not Present: Mark Raymond, Chairperson
Katie Symonds
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Kim Wolf, Historic District Coordinator

Commissioner Lyons, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Hall read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on February 12, 2026.

Application #8432-26 Kieran Williams, seeking to apply stain to previously denied brick chimney installation to match original brick color, reconfigure top of chimney to replicate original crown design at 149 Garden Street. (Last day to act: March 10, 2026)

Kieran Williams, 149 Garden Street, Daniel Lennon, Spotless Chimney, 21 Autumn Circle, Rocky Hill, and Jeff Smith, Project Manager, Spotless Chimney, 124 White Oak Drive, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. The homeowner stated that his situation is similar but slightly more complex. It started with the presentation of their salesperson named Steve lied to them after the presentation when he left the house and said he was going directly down to the Town Hall or wherever he needed to be to file the application. He didn't and he didn't do it for the other person. That has lead to a couple months later, and he can document all of this, phone calls, follow-up, lack of communication starting with Dan who doesn't respond to messages, doesn't get back. Tom, who says he's going to do stuff and doesn't, and had this process been followed properly with them presenting what initially was the color of the brick and the top of their chimney, all of this should have been addressed two months ago before they started. So here they are two months later. The workers are fabulous – professional, courteous, excellent. They are the highlight of Spotless Chimney. Administratively, they stink. They don't communicate, they don't follow up and they don't tell you the truth. They are sitting here two months later and now the application reads that they are staining the brick which was never discussed with him. He told Kim in a letter that he would discuss it with him. He did not. This is the first time he's seen him. The follow-up, the administration, the confusion, the lack of response are abysmal. They should be ashamed. He really thinks this should be tabled because he doesn't have an application for staining bricks which he has no idea if it's good, bad or indifferent. As a matter of fact, one of their representatives at a meeting or in a discussion with Kim stated that he didn't think that was a viable option and didn't think it would work. He believes that Kim said it wouldn't be a viable option. This was never discussed with him. He believes this should be tabled and these guys can do the dog and pony act to the Commission to their satisfaction and to their protection. Commissioner Raymond stated that Dan didn't like that they were trying to stop the project. The homeowner talked to Shawn and told him that he understood his position, but no one came in and talked to him as the homeowner and said that there was a problem. They thought they were gliding along and they were mystified that they showed up on Monday. They were just there on Friday and then going to Town Hall and he thought things had changed. Their whole chimney was replaced and

they did a fabulous job. They thought they were sailing in smooth waters and everything was going okay. And now, two months later, all this crap going back and forth, not hearing back, not being updated, terrible communicators and they're left hanging. Commissioner Raymond stated that they've got a chimney that doesn't match the brick that's on the building. He's a firm believer that they could have saved the brick and re-used the brick. Their house is 96 years old. Matching something that's 96 years old with something new, but was it presented to the HDC that this is something they were going to do. No. Now they are in trouble with the HDC and when they go to seek help and find answers, they have no partners. Dan apologized to the customer. He tries to run a company to be responsive. He should have made a personal visit to make sure everything was going right. They made a mistake and the oversight in their office resulted in a snowball effect where they have a couple of jobs that left a bad taste in their mouth and he wants to make sure that moving forward, they do everything the right way. He apologizes and takes full responsibility. The tech that goes out never goes out and pulls the permit. Mr. Williams said that he would have thought that common courtesy and common sense, professionalism ... how many times does he think he left a message for you (Dan) and for Tom? How many times would you guess? Several? Is that fair? Dan stated that if he says it that he doesn't doubt him at all. Mr. Williams stated that he understands the words but they ring hollow. Dan told Mr. Williams that he would give him his personal cell phone. He didn't get the messages so he's not sure where the gap was. Mr. Williams stated that it started with Steve lying to them and he told him this is the Town of Wethersfield and why did they think they could do this without going through the proper channels. It's ridiculous. Dan stated that they have a system in place so that when a job goes on the schedule, a permit is pulled and it was his fault because apparently the severity of the situation wasn't taken to the order of operations. When he started the company by himself with only a small group of guys, his main purpose ... Commissioner Raymond stated that this is not the time or place for apologies and he doesn't want to waste any more of the Commission's time or the public's time. The application on the table ... they will deal with it and will move forward. How they figure out their differences is totally up to the two of them. Mr. Williams asked that they don't move on it in a sense of what if they approve staining? He doesn't know what staining is. Commissioner Raymond stated that there will be no approval tonight. Commissioner Lyons stated that whatever happens next that they can promise to touch base with the homeowner and the next time they come forward that at least they are on the same page as to what the renderings could be. Is that something they can do? Right now, the only thing the homeowner is hearing is that they're going to stain. Mr. Williams stated that he would respectfully request that this goes back to what it should have been initially several months ago. That they go to the Commission and say this is what we want to do. These are our options. What's acceptable to you? Let them prove to you that you can be satisfied. Commissioner Lyons stated that is the purpose of why they are here, but what they are hearing from you, Mr. Williams, is that you are not in concert with this. You have not agreed to this. It's never been discussed. He was notified when he got the notice from Kim in the mail. Commissioner Lyons asked what are the chances of the homeowner getting together with Spotless Chimney as to what they want to present to the Commission. Dan stated that the homeowner should be involved 100%. The only reason that they have that as the new application is because they had to change the application. So what they really wanted to do was having another hearing on the fact that the brick did match because they feel so strongly about the brick being a good match. Mr. Williams stated that they need to show the Commission that the brick they got is supposed to match. Dan asked how the homeowner felt about the brick match. It doesn't match. His wife is not happy. **UPDATE 2/10/26** - Kieran Williams, 149 Garden Street, Jeff Smith, Project Manager, Spotless Chimney, 124 White Oak Drive, Berlin, and Gino Gallito, Connecticut Brick Stain, 1806 Broad Street, Hartford, appeared before the Commission. The chimney that they put up with the brick was not approved. It was denied. In order to save them from a more extreme measure, they brought in an expert stainer to stain closer to the original look of the brick. The homeowner spoke with Tom for 10 minutes and they talked to him about what their plan was with the staining. Gino is there in order to help explain the details and science, and the long-lasting effects of staining with the

brick which would again, help prevent a more extreme measure in order to save the chimney that is there now. Gino Gallito explained that the process that they use is powders in different colors and a special elixir that mixes it together and it binds right into the brick. They have product data that has lasted over 40 years on some of the projects that they have done. It's a stain so it's breathable so it's not going to peel or crack or anything like that. He's done a lot of jobs in the area. He's been doing this process for three or four years now. He is actually a mason contractor by trade. He started this business because there aren't any more brick companies in Connecticut so it's harder to find matches on projects so that's how he started. He travels all over New England fixing manufacturer defects and doing brick matches. Commissioner Lyons asked if he's addressing the brownstone as well as the brick. He can. Right now, they've asked him to get the new brick to match the existing brick. A sample of the brick that is in the chimney was provided and he stained half of it. He uses the same color on different bricks so you will get different shades. They showed the brick with the stain and without the stain. He can change the color. It is all hand brushed. He can avoid the mortar or he can address the mortar if necessary. He can make it any color they want. Commissioner Hall asked how the stain addresses the bricks turning white. That's efflorescence so that's just moisture coming out of the brick. It will eventually go away. The white is temporary. It's salts coming out of the brick or mortar. There are products that will take it out, but the best thing to do is to let it happen. He can't do the staining until it's 50 degrees so they won't do this until the spring. The best thing to do is have the chimney washed down and then he can stain it. Commissioner Lyons asked him to provide a list of properties where he has done work. He provided a website – ctbrick.com – this is his company and there are photos on-line. He provides a lifetime warranty. Commissioner Lyons asked what his level of confidence is that he can match the existing home to what it was prior. He will do a match with the customer standing there and he can tweak the color as needed. There is no brick left from the original chimney. The stain is based on the brick that is on the house now. He can get really close so they won't be able to tell. The original brick was soft. The new brick is harder but it's still porous. Commissioner Benson stated that the homeowner has to decide that he's okay moving forward with this process before they can act on it. **UPDATE 2/24/26** - Jeff Smith, Project Manager, Spotless Chimney, 124 White Oak Drive, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. Communication has been going well with Mr. Williams. He is aware of the situation. They left off with making the 4x4 sample of brick. Photos were provided. Gino is picking the sample up on Monday and they have an appointment at Mr. Williams' house to tone in and get the details on the specific color of the stain to be used. They will stain it indoors in a temperature controlled room. Once the temperatures outside are at 45 or 50 degrees continually, the stain can be applied outside. They have the exact brick that was used for the chimney without any stain on it. The brick underneath the front door awning is a little different. Maybe it hasn't been weathered as much because of the awning. He specifically asked them to match it as close as possible to the window side of the brick. Commissioner Lyons asked what they are doing with the top of the chimney. They put a pin in that just in case the stain doesn't work and more drastic measures need to be taken.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8437-26 James Campbell, seeking an amendment to Application #8382-25 to change back of garage to include an additional roofline and decking on second floor at 305 Hartford Avenue. (Last day to act: March 24, 2026)

Applicant was not present. **UPDATE 2/10/26** – James Campbell, 305 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. A picture of what the front of the garage looks like now was submitted. Some of the lines that they are working with for the front of the house and they mirrored that when they put the addition on the back. They are inspired by the front of the house that you see from the road to put on the back porch. They will try to mimic the railings that come around. He might try to

duplicate the panel on the front of the house. It will be clapboard siding and will come out on the top and go around and there will be a railing. The railing will be wood. It's on the second story. The columns will be painted 8x8s. They are trying to create an area off the kitchen that is usable and magnify the beauty of the garage. The inset from the dormer is 12'. It is minimal impact. There won't be anything underneath the deck at this time. The stairs will be Trex with wood railings. The decking will be Trex. He has a 36 door with lights that he will be using. They would like to see the door. Commissioner Hall asked what has been approved by Zoning. Everything for the building has been approved by Zoning at this point, but he had to come to HDC to get approval for the porch. There might be a light above the door. Potential lighting was drawn in on the plans. He will send in a photo of the door. **UPDATE 2/24/26** – Applicant wasn't present.

Application #8441-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking an amendment to Application #7096 to move a green memorial bench from the previously approved location at 260 Main Street to the Town right-of-way at 250 Main Street.

Rachel Mattioli, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Wethersfield, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. There was a request to move the bench that is in front of the church because it doesn't align with the other benches along Main Street, so they are looking at two options. 1. The bench stays in its current location but rotates the base out toward Main Street. 2. The bench will move from the current location in front of the church to the town right-of-way in front of the tree on a diagonal facing Main Street toward the parking spaces on the left-hand side. Prior to the redesign of Main Street, putting that crosswalk there, she and the Town Manager had safety concerns in regard to people sitting on the bench with their back facing Main Street. She doesn't want someone pulling into the parking spot and going into the bench. Commissioner Cutkomp stated that she's robbing Peter to pay Paul. They are moving it from the original spot and putting it almost in the same spot up by the church and a parking spot besides. He doesn't understand why this isn't a traffic hazard when you have cars on both sides. Kim Wolf asked if there was an option of putting it up on Marsh Street. That isn't an option. Commissioner Lyons asked how far it is from the sidewalk. It's closer to the sidewalk.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8442-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking to replace wood Cove Park rules sign with a 48" wide x 58" high composite "Cove Boat Launch & Park Rules" sign mounted on 4x4 posts at 533 Main Street, Cove Park Entrance.

Rachel Mattioli, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Wethersfield, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. This is regarding the Cove entrance improvement project which has been completed. There is a new island. As part of the project, the park rules sign came down. It was rotted and outdated. They are getting ready to open up the boat launch and they want to put up a new park rules sign in relatively the same area. The sign would be the same dimensions. The old sign was wood. The new sign will be a composite material. They don't have any intention of replacing the Cove Park sign which was also removed. Commissioner Hall asked if there was any thought or discussion on mounting it on the shack where people stop and will have time to read them? Rachel asked how does that help the people that are walking or biking to the park? She doesn't think there is any benefit to putting the sign onto the shed. The shed gets removed at Columbus Day and comes back on Memorial Day. When they remove the shed, they would be removing the sign. The park is still open, but they don't charge outside of the season. Commissioner Benson asked if there is

a speed limit sign posted anywhere. Commissioner Lyons asked how the sign would be mounted. She will have the town carpenter replicate the old posts that were there. Commissioner Hall stated that the cove park sign should be replaced as well.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8443-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking to replace existing attendant shed for the Cove Park boat launch with an 8' x 10' Dutch colonial storage building with DuraTemp T-111 siding, 5' double-doors, one aluminum window on each gable end, and a 30" x 40" glass window at 533 Main Street, Cove Park Entrance.

Rachel Mattioli, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Wethersfield, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. A photo of the attendant shed from before the redesign was provided. They would like to replace the shed with an 8'x10' Dutch colonial storage building with DuraTemp T-111 siding, 5' double-doors, one aluminum window on each gable end and a 30"x40" glass window. A photo was provided. They are working with Kloter Farms to design the new building. It will have a shingled roof in a brown color. It would be brown with a light grey trim. The doors are located as is so that the attendant will be on the driver's side when cars are entering. The window will allow the attendant to see the water. It will be on a brownstone foundation. There is a power pole and the wire is underground. The shed will be connected to the power pole. The AC unit is inside the shed. Commissioner Benson suggested Dutch doors for the building. The attendant would not keep the double-doors open during the summer because it is like a dust bowl. They can keep one open to do business with the cars. They aren't obligated to replace what is there now. They are trying to make it a little more historically and aesthetically pleasing than what is currently there. It is the same footprint. They can keep the existing shed. Commissioner Lyons stated that they appreciate everything that the Town has done to make the entrance shine. They just may end up asking for some tweaks.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8444-26 Mary Alacali, seeking to replace existing vinyl siding with Georgia Pacific Vision Pro double 4" vinyl siding in gray color, install white vinyl railings on front porch, replace porch posts with white aluminum fluted columns, add stone veneer to front steps, and install white lantern light fixtures at front entrances at 27-29 Alison Lane.

Mary Alacali, 27-29 Alison Lane, appeared before the Commission. Nothing has been done since the house was built so there was a lot of wear and tear. They had empty/hollow steps in the front that were cracked. They used the material and built a new step. When the work was done the steps were perfect but then they became bumpy so she decided to cover them with planks. A photo was provided. The railings were broken so they were replaced at the same time. They weren't trying to modernize, they just wanted to make the changes for safety reasons. The two square columns were dented and uneven so they put the round ones over them. She was unaware that she was part of the Historic District. The house is only 20 years old. She apologized. They had a fire over the summer and the siding is now damaged on the back of the house. The siding is also old and when she went to apply for a permit for siding, they told her she is in Old Wethersfield. Then she talked to Kim and they discussed the other changes that have been made. She did not pull permits for the steps or the other work. A sample of the siding was provided. They would like to replace vinyl with vinyl. The

exposure is double four. The color is grey. She provided two options – photos were provided. She doesn't have a preference. The foundation will be painted. They would like to go to 6" gutters but they would not change the look. They are 4" gutters now. The steps were concrete slab previously. She covered them with grey granite. They were hollow and they cracked. The rails were rusted and broken. They have already replaced the lights. They are similar to what was there previously but in a white color. The material was glued onto the steps. They got it at Home Depot. The columns were installed over what was there.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8445-26 Corey and Max Polakowski, seeking to replace wood siding with Alside Charter Oak XL Grain double 4.5" vinyl siding, soffit, and corner boards, replace gutters with 6" white gutters and downspouts at 19 Jordan Lane.

Corey Polakowski, 19 Jordan Lane, and Anthony DeCiuceis, Nu-Face Home Improvements, 855 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. They are having major water and draining issues due to the craftsmanship. She provided photos. The connection between the garage and the house was not done properly. The pitch of the roof and the gutters were not lined up correctly. Through 10 years of draining issues, the cedar that was used is now coming off of the house and water is now going behind the siding into the sheathing. This is happening on both sides of the house. They are worried about mold issues. The contractor didn't put up the right trim up and he didn't paint it correctly. You can put your finger through pieces of the trim. The foundation is now being effected as well. The trim all needs to be replaced. After looking into doing just one corner of the house, it became clear that it's probably a better idea to just do the whole house to make sure the sheathing is dry and so that it doesn't happen in the rest of the house. The insurance is not covering it. She has letters from two neighbors stating that they are okay with the updates/changes. They would also like to update their light fixtures above the garage and next to the doors. There will be four light fixtures – two above the garage and two next to the doors. The contractor will replace anything that is rotting. He will put in two layers of insulation. They will take everything off, make sure all of the walls are dry and good to go and sheathing is intact. He would usually put 1/2" insulation board on it, wrap around the whole perimeter of the home, galvanized steel starter strip, siding panel, any J channel necessary, soffits, fascia. In the back they have an idea for the gutter ... the pitch of the garage is way too steep. The thought is to build a cricket in the roof and maybe an L shape gutter to drain the water off somewhere else other than the back of the house. They have 6" gutters which are modern, but for the issues they are having with the home, it seems like the best option. They already have white trim on the house. It will just be a bigger gutter. Vinyl siding is their preference. A sample of the siding was provided. They have to take off all of the siding.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application.

Brittany and Alex Desjardins, 27 Jordan Lane, via written correspondence, spoke in favor of the application.

Sally Slidell, via written correspondence, spoke in favor of the application.

Tina Varona, via written correspondence, spoke in favor of the application.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8446-26 Joseph Costardo, seeking an amendment to Application #8265 to alter the door entry and windows at 126 Church Street.

Natasha and Joe Costardo, 126 Church Street, appeared before the Commission. They presented the wrong plan at the last meeting. The correct plan which they provided tonight showcases an entry door that will be central to the structure. Aesthetically, it looks better and is more functional because it goes out onto a patio and it just looks better with the flow of the house. Commissioner Cutkomp stated that he agrees. The only material that they changed is the windows. They would like Harvey Majesty double-hung windows. A sample was provided. They have nine lights on top with a single on the bottom. They are trying to get them to mirror the back side of the house. There will be windows on the left and the right of the structure. There will be four windows in total. The railings will come out straight and not on the driveway side.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Application #8447-26 Suzanne Aber, seeking to replace 12 windows in home with Marvin Elevate double-hung windows in Stone White color to match windows previously approved and installed at 169 Garden Street.

Kevin Kotuby, Project Manager, Coughlin Service Corporation, 180 Johnson Street, Middletown, appeared before the Commission. They are completing another phase of a project they started in 2022. They are replacing existing windows with Marvin Elevate replacement windows that are inserts. Photos of a previous installation were provided. They would like to do the second and third floors. The first floor and the full Garden Street side are already completed. The siding and trim will remain the same. The glass isn't tinted in any way. They had approved the original application in June of 2022. They would like to be approved to do the 12 windows, but the homeowner might only want to do some of the windows at this time. Bare minimum, they would do the entire second floor. The screens will be full invisible dark screens that will match the existing screens.

Commissioner Lyons asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8432-26 Kieran Williams, seeking to apply stain to previously denied brick chimney installation to match original brick color, reconfigure top of chimney to replicate original crown design at 149 Garden Street. (Last day to act: March 10, 2026)

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Benson and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to TABLE the application.

Discussion

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that it seems like Spotless is trying. He will talk to Kieran before they meet next time.

Commissioner Benson stated that they need to make sure that the homeowner is on board and they can go by and take a look at the progress.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8437-26 James Campbell, seeking an amendment to Application #8382-25 to change back of garage to include an additional roofline and decking on second floor at 305 Hartford Avenue. (Last day to act: March 24, 2026)

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Benson and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to TABLE the application.

Discussion

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that the applicant wasn't here tonight and he has until March 24th.

Commissioner Lyons stated that conceptually, they are on board with most of it. They just need to see the door.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8441-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking an amendment to Application #7096 to move a green memorial bench from the previously approved location at 260 Main Street to the Town right-of-way at 250 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Hall seconded by Commissioner Cutkomp and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The bench shall be moved to the right-of-way, as requested, and shall be positioned parallel to the sidewalk and facing Main Street, to the left of the tree at the driveway and installed close to the sidewalk, at the entrance of First Church.

Discussion

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that it doesn't make any sense to have the back toward a parking spot.

Commissioner Rapacz stated that she said it is the other way around.

Commissioner Hall said that it should be parallel and facing Main Street.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8442-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking to replace wood Cove Park rules sign with a 48” wide x 58” high composite “Cove Boat Launch & Park Rules” sign mounted on 4x4 posts at 533 Main Street, Cove Park Entrance.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benson seconded by Commissioner Cutkomp and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The sign mounting style and posts shall replicate the existing original sign.
2. The Cove Park rules sign must be coupled with a separate sign identifying and designating “Cove Park” to replace the removed Cove Park sign.

Discussion

Commissioner Benson stated that they can’t just have the park rules without an identifier of Cove Park. It makes no sense.

Commissioner Hall stated that it’s more welcoming.

Commissioner Magnoli stated that they are asking them to replace what was there previously.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp

Nay: Magnoli

Application #8443-26 Town of Wethersfield – Parks & Recreation, seeking to replace existing attendant shed for the Cove Park boat launch with an 8’ x 10’ Dutch colonial storage building with DuraTemp T-111 siding, 5’ double-doors, one aluminum window on each gable end, and a 30” x 40” glass window at 533 Main Street, Cove Park Entrance.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benson seconded by Commissioner Hall and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Benson stated that he would be making different choices in terms of design and functionality. There seem to be some obvious things to do that aren’t expensive. He doesn’t think this is a vast improvement on the shed that already exists. They both look like mass produced sheds. If they want to keep the one they have, he’s fine with that. If this is the direction they want to go, he doesn’t think it’s inappropriate. The fact that they could do better feels a little bit out of his purview. To him, it’s too bad that as a Town, they don’t do something more imaginative and original, but he understands this shed also has to move and be picked up so that may determine some of its generic qualities. He doesn’t think the proposal from a historic standpoint is disqualifying or inappropriate. There is nothing bespoke about this. He can go out and buy it and put it in his garden.

Commissioner Magnoli stated that he agrees with a lot of what Commissioner Benson said. The shed looks like it would be in a backyard, but it is an improvement at the end of the day. He thinks that at least one door will probably be open most times.

Commissioner Lyons stated that they can do better. It is an attendant's shed and it's on a nice footing, but the town has been pretty responsive with them working on that to make a lot of changes and they recognize that it is a premier spot in Wethersfield. There's no windows in the barn doors. He's not asking them to spend any more money. They have some room and time to get this done right.

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that you're asking the attendant to leave the building. Why should he have to open those doors? With Dutch doors, you stay in the building. They come to you.

Commissioner Hall stated that the way those two barn doors are now says storage shed. They might even drive by it thinking it's a storage shed. If you put in a window, they will say that's where I go to conduct business. Why have two doors? Have one door and a window or a Dutch door.

Aye: Benson, Magnoli

Nay: Lyons, Hall, Cutkomp

MOTION FAILS

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Hall and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to TABLE the application.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8444-26 Mary Alacali, seeking to replace existing vinyl siding with Georgia Pacific Vision Pro double 4" vinyl siding in gray color, install white vinyl railings on front porch, replace porch posts with white aluminum fluted columns, add stone veneer to front steps, and install white lantern light fixtures at front entrances at 27-29 Alison Lane.

Upon motion by Commissioner Lyons seconded by Commissioner Benson and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. All trim on the house shall be white in color. Black trim was not approved.
2. All tile veneer on the risers and sides of front stairs shall be removed. No decorative additions were approved for the front stairs.
3. The gutters are not a part of this application and will require a separate application at homeowner's convenience. Gutters not approved at this time.

Discussion

Commissioner Lyons stated that the only thing he would have an issue with is the granite look of the steps. That's why he asked how they were applied and if they can be removed. He's okay with the railings because of the reasons that Commissioner Benson gave. They have allowed these railings on homes that have vinyl.

Commissioner Benson stated that he understands that this is a fait accompli which is super annoying and sort of out of order, but he can't not approve it because it annoys him because it was done without permission. The reason he would approve it, even though the house is in the Historic District, he doesn't find the improvements made particularly egregious in terms of this neo Colonial style. His

standard is also lower because this house isn't particularly historically significant even though it is in the District. There is nothing about the original detail that is defining of this architectural style. The siding is basically a like for like. He finds the black trim inappropriate and very modern and completely outside of that Colonial replicant.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8445-26 Corey and Max Polakowski, seeking to replace wood siding with Alside Charter Oak XL Grain double 4.5" vinyl siding, soffit, and corner boards, replace gutters with 6" white gutters and downspouts at 19 Jordan Lane.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Magnoli and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Benson stated that the problem isn't the siding. They are fixing the wrong problem. This isn't his purview, but they are fixing the wrong problem and it's hard to see that happening. They are asked to evaluate whether it is historically appropriate. It's never appropriate to replace wood with vinyl. However, this really is very, very minimally visible and it is a 10 year old house that is failing.

Commissioner Hall stated that it should be sided in wood. He's worried about vinyl encroachment which is discouraged throughout the Handbook is happening. They heard the same story with the Hartford Avenue barn.

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that their first choice was Riviera Dusk. They have more problems. He would rather see them use aluminum.

Commissioner Lyons stated that the alternative material that they have is a PVC product but a composite shake and then a composite clad like Hardiboard but the contractor stated they don't do that. Insurance limits any kind of mold coverage. He doesn't really have a problem with vinyl here.

Aye: Lyons, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Nay: Hall

Application #8446-26 Joseph Costardo, seeking an amendment to Application #8265 to alter the door entry and windows at 126 Church Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Lyons and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that he thinks it's a great project. It's appropriate change and he's all for it.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

Application #8447-26 Suzanne Aber, seeking to replace 12 windows in home with Marvin Elevate double-hung windows in Stone White color to match windows previously approved and installed at 169 Garden Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Magnoli and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Cutkomp stated that he's just matching what is there already.

Commissioner Hall stated that this is part two of a previous application.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Magnoli

OTHER BUSINESS

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Upon motion by Commissioner Cutkomp seconded by Commissioner Magnoli and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the meeting minutes of February 10, 2026, as submitted.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Rapacz

Public Comments on General Matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

Neon Signs – There are a few in the Village Pizza block and there is one at Lucky Lou's. It says in the Handbook that neon signs are discouraged. Is it okay to keep neon signs on during business hours only? It needs approval because it's considered a sign. Commissioner Benson stated that the sign at Lucky Lou's is way out of line for the building. It sticks out. It strikes him as being unnecessary. Commissioner Hall stated that it's not the light that makes a difference. Commissioner Lyons stated that they should submit an application for the lights.

Handbook – They would like to have either half an hour before or after a meeting to review wording for the Handbook changes. They should set a special meeting.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon Commissioner Magnoli, seconded by Commissioner Cutkomp and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Aye: Lyons, Hall, Benson, Cutkomp, Rapacz

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chris Hall
- Clerk -