

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a meeting from the Wethersfield Town Hall, Conference Room #3, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut on March 10, 2026.

Members Present: Mark Raymond, Chairperson  
Chris Lyons, Vice Chairperson  
Chris Hall, Clerk  
Peter Benson  
Andrea Rapacz, Alternate

Not Present: Thomas Magnoli, Jr., Alternate  
Bruce Cutkomp, Alternate  
Katie Symonds  
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Kim Wolf, Historic District Coordinator

Commissioner Raymond, 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 26, 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 led 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](http://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. **UPDATE 3/10/26** - Kieran Williams, 149 Garden Street, and Jeff Smith, Project Manager, Spotless Chimney, 124 White Oak Drive, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. They treated a 4x4 sample of the same brick that they used on the chimney that they are in discussion of changing the color for. They had the professional stainer stain the sample and leave it outside against the chimney in question. They hope everyone had a chance to drive by and look at it. Four photos were emailed to Kim. The rain does distort the color. The homeowner stated that his first reaction was that he wanted it darker. It still has a pinkish hue. The mortar itself is not near what the existing mortar is. The mortar has to be addressed as a separate issue. They can darken the mortar. That might help with having the color pop a little bit more. They can do it with that sample. Commissioner Raymond stated that he thought the stain was a lot closer than he thought it was going to be. He agrees that the mortar does stick out a little bit. They did talk, at the same time as doing this, about the crown on top. The crown was in question as to not having a similar look to neighboring chimneys. Photos of neighboring chimneys were provided. They have a solution to make the crown look much more like the neighboring chimneys. There is something they

can do at the exact same time with one set of scaffolding that they put up and they take care of the crown issue and have their stain expert, Gino, come out and do that at the same time. If approved, they are looking at May to go through with the staining because of the temperature requirements. The darker bricks will be that uniform color. They should only need one application of stain.

Commissioner Lyons asked about the leaching of the salt out of the brick. They would like to see what it will look like in May. There is a chance that they clean it and the bleeding would continue. Having applied it in May, a lot of that process will be finished. Commissioner Benson suggested trying a darker stain and also doing something to the mortar at the same time to see if that's more acceptable. The crown will have a thicker layer of cement and the stainless steel cap. The next step is that they will stain the sample on one side with a darker stain on just the brick and on the other side they will also stain the mortar. They should leave the left side as is and then apply a second coat to the right side with a darkening of the grout as well.

Commissioner Raymond 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. **UPDATE 3/10/26** – James Campbell, 305 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. New drawings were submitted. They got away from the stairway going down. They will match the old porch and match the front of the building. They changed the gable end from a shed to the peak which matches the rest of his porches. They reduced the size and made it a little bit deeper. There is a little overhang so the detail matches the house. It is 11' with a 1' overhang. A photo of the door that came out of the other house was provided. It's 7' and all beveled glass. They will install that in between the other two windows. He will probably have two low wattage lights inside the porch that are painted black.

Commissioner Raymond 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. (Last day to act: March 24, 2026)

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. **UPDATE 3/10/26** - Rachel Mattioli, Director of Parks & Recreation, Town of Wethersfield, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. At the last meeting, they were not in favor of the double-doors on the attendant shed. She went back to Kloter Farms and came back with a new design. It will now have a single door with a Dutch hinge. It will still have two windows on each end and the glass window facing the water side. Commissioner Benson asked if there was any thought to match the corner posts to the color of the building.

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

Kieran Williams, 149 Garden Street, made comments about the application.

Commissioner Raymond 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 #8448-26** Wethersfield Fire Department, seeking to install a 4' wide x 5' high stone veneer memorial behind flag poles at 171 Main Street.

Deputy Chief Daniel Bresnahan and Lieutenant Joseph Sipala, appeared before the Commission. They have a memorial that they would like to add to Company #1 for members that have over 40 years of service with the Fire Department and to also memorialize Moe Cattanio who is a founding member of Company #3 as well as a Town employee for many years. A drawing was provided. It would be centered between the two flag posts probably 3' off of the building. It's 12' wide and 6' deep. There will be two plaques on it. One that memorializes Moe Cattanio and a bronze plaque below it that will hold 30 names. The monument will be stone veneer. The base will be below grade. The names will be engraved. There will be no additional lighting.

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

Eileen McCormick, 143 Garden Street, spoke in favor of the application.

Scott Wands, 4 Avalon Place, spoke in favor of the application.

Commissioner Raymond 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 #8449-26** Gove Restoration LLC, seeking to replace two (2) attic windows with white Marvin Elevate 1/1 windows to match previously approved windows at 133 Church Street.

Matt Gove, 70 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. All of the windows have been previously replaced on the house. The fronts are different than the sides. All of the sides are 1/1 windows. The attic windows are falling to pieces. They are just replacing those attic windows. They will be 1/1 to match the side windows. They will have full screens in the same color. The glass is not tinted. They can do half screens to match the rest of the screens.

Commissioner Raymond 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 #8450-26** Richard Wasserman, seeking to replace thirteen (13) wood windows with white Harvey Majesty 1/1 aluminum clad windows with SunShield Plus glass at 65 Slate Street.

Cindy Wasserman, 33 Lincoln Road, appeared before the Commission. The house is 110 years old. The existing windows are in horrible condition. The glazing is out in huge chunks. They have ropes and pulleys. They've been cut and painted shut. It's a mess. They would like to replace them with 1/1 wood windows that are aluminum clad on the outside and they would remove the existing storm windows. The SunShield Plus glass is for energy efficiency. It doesn't have a color. Commissioner Benson stated that these are the original windows and they are not difficult to repair. It takes time. It was \$20,000 to have the windows repaired versus \$5,000 to replace them. The new windows are never going to last as long as the original windows. Commissioner Hall stated that he agrees with Commissioner Benson and they are a CLG so they have a higher standard of preservation. The second floor bedroom windows will be replaced (4), on the back there is one and a bathroom one, and four in the front.

Commissioner Raymond 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 #8451-26** David and Eileen McCormick, seeking to install a portion of round cedar three-rail fence with attached black vinyl wire in rear yard at 143 Garden Street.

Dick McCormick, 143 Garden Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace a temporary dog fence with a permanent one. A photo was submitted. It will be cedar three-rail fence with attached black vinyl wire. On the south side, it will be 4' from the property line. On the west side, it will be 6'. They are fencing in the patio. There will be two 4' gates, one on the west side and one on the south side. They will be split rail.

Commissioner Raymond 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 #8452-26** 3E Main LLC, seeking an amendment and extension for Application #8315-25 to widen driveway from 11.8' to 12', add driveway lighting, extend wood fence along driveway, and add one handicapped sign at 184 Main Street.

Erigels Kroi, 184 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. Planning & Zoning made some suggested changes and the neighbor had some concerns. They will have to shift the driveway slightly. They are going to continue with the fence that had been approved before all the way to the

front of the house. They will continue with arbor vitae which were approved before. They are also adding lighting and the handicapped signs. They are proposing handicapped signs in the back where the parking spots are. There will be one on the right-hand side and the other two will be "van accessible" at the end of the parking. Commissioner Hall asked if they are able to design their own non-reflective signs or do they have to go with the style they have proposed. He doesn't know. The wood fence will continue all the way to the front of 180 Main Street. Commissioner Benson stated that this section of town and of the street, these houses are all visually accessible to everyone walking by, and it's a big point of visual interest and the rhythm of the street is very open. The real difficult thing for him to deal with is the fence because he feels that it disrupts the view. It will make the neighbor's house seem ... he remembers all the issues of people coming in and out and trying to protect the neighbor ... but he thinks they are going to have a fence that is uncomfortably close to his house. It has a huge visual impact. The fence ends at the base of his house where the porch is attached. Commissioner Hall suggested that they remove one panel of the fence. If they can't eliminate it, can they make it a 4' height instead? Yes, they can do that.

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

Cindy Hughes, 14 Meggat Park, spoke in favor of the application.

Commissioner Raymond 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 Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Raymond, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

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

1. The crown on the chimney shall remain.
2. The brick stain sample is not approved as submitted and shall be resubmitted as an amendment before the end of April 2026 with another stain and mortar option.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that he thinks that the homeowner is clearly happy with the crown piece. He doesn't think it's inappropriate. It doesn't match exactly what was there previously but he doesn't think it's that big of a change. He thinks they have gotten most of the detail back into the rebuild of the chimney with the exception of the color of the brick and the grout which really stand out obviously. He's hoping they will be able to come back with some samples of color. He did go by and take a look at the stained piece. He thought it was closer. Not exact, but closer. So he's hopeful that they can come up with a stain that will get it as close as we can.

Commissioner Lyons stated that he went by a few times as well. They really are missing some of the detail in the pattern. He's concerned that it's one application and they are going to have to live with that. They had the photos of those darker bricks that are going to be matched. To be clear, that concrete piece is gone, but they administratively approve that stainless steel cap.

Commissioner Hall stated that for them to try to fix the stain is their only option. The other option is a tear-down and they are going to use the same brick. In order to get used brick or more appropriate brick, he's going to have to go with another contractor.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Lyons stated that they have a sample of the door. The stairs are going to be removed. It really has minimal impact on the District.

Commissioner Benson stated he agrees with Commissioner Lyons. The applicant has really clarified his own vision and in the process clarified their vision of what he's doing.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

**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. (Last day to act: March 24, 2026)

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

1. The color of the shed shall be monochromatic brown, with all trim matching the structure.
2. The shed will not have shutters.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Lyons stated that he thinks it's pretty clear that they did listen to them. He thought they would still get a barn door/Dutch door but he's okay with that. He didn't think they were going to put the window on the water side.

Commissioner Hall stated that he talked to the two kids that actually have to sit in there all day. Now there are windows on all four sides. It's safer. They are more informed without having to exit it. It just makes sense.

Commissioner Benson stated that it's going to function much better. He's super glad they were responsive to that.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

**Application #8448-26** Wethersfield Fire Department, seeking to install a 4' wide x 5' high stone veneer memorial behind flag poles at 171 Main Street.

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that he does like that it is set back. It's clearly really well thought out. It's a memorial to 40 years of service and, yes, now there will be three different monuments but it's an expansive front sidewalk so it gives people walking by an opportunity to stop and read and there's a bench there that they can reflect. He thinks they really thought it through.

Commissioner Hall stated that he likes the individuality of it and it's set back from the sidewalk a bit. The patio has already established that space so he thinks it compliments the walking space.

Commissioner Benson stated that he appreciates the thoughtfulness that went into it. He thinks it is too crowded. He doesn't see why this isn't simply an administrative matter. There are many other meaningful and resonant ways to recognize people who have served in your brotherhood or sisterhood for 40 years without putting a plaque out in public and he thinks it might take away a little bit from the memorial that is already there. However, it seems like when he queried that, that they had really thought through all of these things more carefully than he did. He is willing to defer to them and his fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Lyons stated that he would have preferred at least matching where the other two monuments are ... not in material. He thinks it would have been more appropriate.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

**Application #8449-26** Gove Restoration LLC, seeking to replace two (2) attic windows with white Marvin Elevate 1/1 windows to match previously approved windows at 133 Church Street.

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

### Discussion

Commissioner Raymond stated that they are matching that 1/1 pattern that already exists.

Commissioner Lyons stated that this is a continuation of approved windows on this home.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

**Application #8450-26** Richard Wasserman, seeking to replace thirteen (13) wood windows with white Harvey Majesty 1/1 aluminum clad windows with SunShield Plus glass at 65 Slate Street.

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

### Discussion

Commissioner Hall stated that he would go with preservation or restoration since these are original windows. For consistency, quality and appropriateness – they are a perfect candidate for restored windows.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he thinks the windows themselves 1/1 aren't necessarily a unique window. It is important to keep the original windows. The other thing he wishes they had was a good solution to give homeowners options of those people who can make repairs in the District. He wishes they had a handful of names they can give. He has an issue with the tint to the glass. Maybe if there was an option without the tinted glass, he could be convinced.

Commissioner Benson stated that the windows are original to the house. They are, as all original windows, they look like original windows. This building has two replacement windows in the dormer and they are really out of sync with the house. Take that as an example of what replacement windows are going to look like in that house and he is comfortable denying this application. Imagine someone who lives in that house someday, if not this applicant, is going to appreciate that those windows are preserved because he knows from personal experience that what she has, even if they are in disrepair, once they are repaired they will be far superior to what she's proposing and more appropriate.

Commissioner Lyons stated that he thinks they are appropriate windows with the 1/1 pattern.

Aye: Hall, Benson

Nay: Raymond, Lyons, Rapacz

MOTION FAILS

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Raymond stated that he thinks they should see if there is another option beside the window that was proposed or eventually, it may end up in denial. They will give the homeowner an option to come back.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Benson, Rapacz                      Nay: Hall

**Application #8451-26** David and Eileen McCormick, seeking to install a portion of round cedar three-rail fence with attached black vinyl wire in rear yard at 143 Garden Street.

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Benson stated that they have approved this kind of fence before. He thinks it's appropriate. It's replacing a temporary fence that is already up.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

**Application #8452-26** 3E Main LLC, seeking an amendment and extension for Application #8315-25 to widen driveway from 11.8' to 12', add driveway lighting, extend wood fence along driveway, and add one handicapped sign at 184 Main Street.

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 stipulation:

1. The fence shall have a 4' high graduated first panel, rising to 6' in height to meet the next panels which shall be 6' high.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

On hold until next meeting.

### **Public Comments on General Matters of the Historic District**

Alexandra Sheldon and Alex Greenough, 304 Hartford Avenue, discussed Bill 5508. It felt like a red flag and they wanted to know where the HDC stood on it. There's a part in it that says that not only is there an exception for higher education to not get to have an exemption and to not have to functionally follow the rules, but they can submit an application, but it is non-binding. Anything owned by a non-profit or the state or municipalities just don't have to follow. The concern was that if

something is refused then it goes to the Zoning Commission and then the Supreme Court but now it would just be the Supreme Court. Commissioner Raymond had a conversation with State Representative Kerry Wood because there was going to be a meeting today, however, there was some confusion as to whether it was going to be a public meeting or whether she was just going to come in and address the HDC and talk about some topics. She didn't sponsor the bill and so it wasn't really fair for her to come in and address the public when it's not really her bill. So, in talking with her, specifically on 5508, she had mentioned that she thinks it's not going any further than tomorrow because, when they had a public hearing, nobody showed up to speak in favor of it.

Doug Ovian, 56 Broad Street, spoke regarding Bill 5508. The more worrisome bill is 5508. The one where nobody came is 5376 which establishes the work groups. It is less worrisome in some ways because it does the more measured thing which is have a work group to talk about something. There will be a full public hearing tomorrow and there will probably be a lot of testimony. If you get a chance, watch the public hearing for the other one based on what the Chair is saying. Maybe there was some comment by the legislators at the time. Commissioner Raymond stated that one of the points that state representative Kerry Wood mentioned is that there is concern with constituents that continue to voice their opinion about things like solar continuing to be denied and we should be aware that there is growing concern about that. He explained to her that there are a lot of things they take into consideration in the District. He thinks a lot of people don't understand that they've had trials in the District with full on solar that they thought would be minimal impact and they find that it didn't actually work very well. He and Commissioner Benson were having a conversation earlier today ... people think of the here and now for those panels. They go on a house for 30 years. That house has been there for 75 maybe 100 years and hopefully will be here for another 175 years. They think of it more as a long-term as opposed to what they need to do to conserve energy. Is it appropriate for that home? Is it appropriate on the back of the home? They take all of that into consideration. They are there to preserve and protect the District and that's what makes Wethersfield so special. He's been on the board for over 20 years and he's seen a lot of changes and a lot of great commissioners come through and it's always a battle. It seems like they are always battling with the Town and they are battling with some of the residents at times too. In the end, everybody loves Old Wethersfield. He encourages everyone to talk to the State Representatives.

Cindy Hughes, 14 Meggat Park, stated they are talking about some things like solar panels. She's more concerned about the bigger stuff because she lives right in the heart down near Hamner School and Motor Vehicles. They all hear the buzz about these areas. Will this keep them or hurt them in representing all of them with respect to the redevelopment of the DMV building and parcel or Hamner School? Commissioner Raymond stated that in regard to the DMV, it's yet to be seen what will happen there. There is a lot of discussion and rumors, but if it ends up being something residential, then absolutely it would come before them. It would no longer be municipal. If it were to become some sort of higher education, if there were these non-profit things that were passed, that might go away from their purview, so it is concerning.

### **Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

None.

### **Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon Commissioner Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:20 PM.

Aye: Raymond, Lyons, Hall, Benson, Rapacz

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chris Hall  
- Clerk -