

FALLS VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, September 21, 2026

Attending: Judy Jacobs, Bill Beebe, Richard Berzine, and Caitlin Jenkins. Caitlin served as acting recording secretary in the absence of Cheryl Aeschliman. Judy put to motion to **approve the past minutes** from the last regular meeting on July 20, 2026, seconded by Bill, and passed unanimously (note: the August meeting was cancelled).

Communications: Judy reported that she received a call from a contractor (Jake Cyr) working on a lead abatement issue at 81 Main Street because the owners are considering the purchase of new windows for their house. They had been in touch with the State of CT Historic Commission regarding lead abatement. The state told them they preferred wood windows but would allow vinyl. They suggested he contact their historical society (i.e., the Historic District Commission). He called our building inspector (John Papp) who indicated he has no jurisdiction on this issue and asked First Selectman Barger on who to refer them to, and Barger directed them to Judy. Judy advised them on windows saying we did not have a problem with vinyl as long as it looked historically accurate. The owners said they would likely install wood windows on the front of the house and vinyl on the rest. Judy thanked the owners for contacting her. This exchange was a good example of the protocol for how, if approved, a Historic District Commission would help advise property owners in the historic district on desired changes to their houses in keeping with the historic integrity of the town.

Changes to the membership of the Falls Village Historic District Committee: Both Cheryl Aeschliman and Frank Haskell have stepped down from the committee. Judy reported that she also plans to ask Scott Jack if he wants to resign due to the fact that he has not attended any meetings so far. Finding replacements for these members was discussed.

Falls Village Historic District Report: The Committee confirmed the most recent version of the rules and regulations portion of this report in order to make further edits.

House inventory: Caitlin has continued to add descriptive information to the list of properties currently included in the nationally recognized historic district of Falls Village. She will send out her most recent version of the list to the other members for edits. The Committee discussed whether or not to expand the district to include properties on Warren Turnpike as well as on the far end of Main Street towards Route 7; no final decision was made.

Walking tour brochure: Edits to this brochure from 1995 are currently on the back-burner while the committee focuses on other business but will be discussed further in the future.

Historic district signs: Judy reported that the new signs marking the entrances to Falls Village have been made and are awaiting installation by the company.

Next meeting: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2026 at 4:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 pm by Judy, and seconded by Bill, with unanimous consent.

Respectfully, Caitlin Jenkins, recording secretary standing in for Cheryl Aeschliman