



**Town of Sherman  
Historic District Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 15, 2025  
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Cara Kaufmann (Chair), Jim French (Vice Chair), Connor McGowan, Brett Pransky

**Members Absent:** Karen Angelo, Jan Desiato (Alternate)

**Other Attendees:** Christine Aruza (Clerk)

**Call to Order:** Chair C. Kaufmann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**C. McGowan made a motion** to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes

**Seconded by:** C. Kaufmann

**Vote:** Unanimous For

**2024/2025 Annual Report**

Commissioners discussed the inputs for the annual report and what should be included for submission:

- \* Commission Members & Terms
- \* Meetings & Hearings: Conducted 9 regular meetings, one special meeting and one public hearing
- \* Reviewed and approved four Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications; denied a post construction COA application (Veteran's Wall)
- \* Consulted with the Board of Selectmen regarding renovations to the Scout House (Old Center School)
- \* Participated in the Community Expo – May 3, 2025

- \* Created and distributed an official welcome package for new homeowners in the district.
- \* Created and distributed a letter to other commissions to familiarize them with updated working processes with the Historic District Commission.
- \* Drafted and sent a letter to Representative Patrick Callahan (R-CT) with respect to proposed legislative changes regarding solar panel installation in Historic Districts.

### **Scout House Renovations**

C. McGowan walked the site prior to the start of the meeting and shared that renovations are coming along well. J. French believes they are working on the interior now. Commissioners were unsure if all exterior work has been completed, noting that gutters still need to be installed and possibly storm window covers. J. French advised that wood shakes on the roof were replaced with cedar shingles, which is more cost effective and has a reduced profile. He added that the commission should make a note to remind the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that sealer should be applied every five to eight years to extend the lifespan of the shingles. J. French said the new clapboards installed today are thinner than 20 or 30 years ago and discussed the finishing on the clapboards.

### **Veteran's Wall**

C. Kaufmann emailed D. Lowe (First Selectman) regarding this matter and he suggested approaching Planning and Zoning (P&Z). J. French recommended communicating to P&Z that due to other mitigating circumstances that their originally issued June 1, 2025 removal date was untenable and thus should be pushed out to June 1, 2026. J. French said the commission should also speak with the BOS about collaboration between Public Works and Park and Recreation in addition to P&Z for them to jointly select an appropriate site. Commissioners discussed potentially relocating the installation at Veteran's Field albeit there could be an issue with approvals from First Light. B. Pransky suggested the new senior center site – if the measure passes – as another potential point for relocation. C. McGowan will send an email on behalf of the commission to P&Z and will also speak to the town's new land use enforcement officer (John Cody) regarding the matter.

### **Any New Business**

The regular meeting scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> will need to be held in the breakroom at Town Hall due to the start of early voting for the November municipal election.

### **Adjournment**

**J. French made a motion** to adjourn the meeting

**Seconded by:** C. McGowan

**Vote For:** Unanimous For

**C. Kaufmann adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza  
Next monthly meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025, @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall

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### ADDENDUM

The following are site inspection notes recorded by C. Kaufmann (Chair) on July 21, 2025 of the Center School/Scout House renovations. Also in attendance during the site inspection were Jim French (Vice Chair) and Karen Angelo (Commissioner).

“We went to go look at the progress of the renovations after closing the regular Historic District Commission meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025. Commissioners spoke about the new layer of clapboard, the new overhang for the gutters, and paint. Commissioners also discussed the belfry that was taken off the roof for repair. The belfry used to house the school bell, which is now housed at the Old Store. Commissioners proceeded to walk around the whole building and agreed that the renovations look like they are going well.”