



**Town of Sherman
Historic District Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Cara Kaufmann (Chair), Jim French (Vice Chair), Karen Angelo

Members Absent: Connor McGowan, Brett Pransky, Jan Desiato (Alternate)

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

Call to Order: Chair C. Kaufmann called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

J. French made a motion to approve the September 15, 2025 minutes

Seconded by: C. Kaufmann

Vote: Unanimous For

Meeting Dates 2026

Commissioners reviewed the 2026 meeting calendar provided by the clerk.

C. Kaufmann **made a motion** to approve the meeting calendar dates for 2026.

Seconded by: J. French

Vote For: All in favor.

Veteran's Wall

C. Kaufmann emailed C. McGowan for an update on his discussion with the town's land use enforcement officer (LUEO) about the matter. C. McGowan advised he just got in touch with the LUEO last week so there is no update at this time. He will update at the next meeting.

Scout House Renovations

J. French asked C. Kaufmann if she had received a copy of the bids specs and if the specs called for shakes on the roof. C. Kaufmann said she had them and brought them last time but was unsure if the specs called for shakes. J. French said he believed the contractor put on #1 perfection cedar shingles (i.e., less expensive). Shakes are twice as thick and are much coarser in appearance. However, he said shingles may be more appropriate to the time period of actual construction. J. French also mentioned that the clapboards were thinner. C. Kaufmann will scan the document and email as a .pdf to the other commissioners.

C. Kaufmann asked if J. French spoke to Don Lowe (First Selectman) regarding the gutters and if provisions have been made for the application of sealant to the roof for routine maintenance every five to ten years. J. French said he had not spoken to him yet, but he noticed the gutters were installed. J. French added he did not notice if the storm windows were installed. He went on to state that even though air conditioning has been added to the building, it would have been advisable to have built-in ventilation in the attic space, which could help prevent interior moisture. Historical construction would have accommodated this with space between building materials. It is now sealed tight with modern construction techniques and materials (e.g., foam insulation). K. Angelo asked if ventilation could be added now. J. French said it could be done, but would alter the historical appearance of the building in an unsuitable manner. The commission was also unsure what the inspection of the sills yielded. J. French will contact D. Lowe regarding the status of outstanding construction items.

New Business

J. French will assist C. Kaufmann after the election with organizing the commission's documents. K. Angelo brought up the issue again of speeding in the district. She is concerned about pedestrians and feels there should be a sidewalk or signage. C. Kaufmann said dump and large commercial trucks speed through the center; she has researched it and this activity can impact the foundations of the homes in the district. J. French recommended contacting the truck company and/or the state trooper. K. Angelo mentioned Washington, CT and their installation of speed signs that issues tickets as a possible solution to explore. However, the commission is also wary of adding too much signage in the district and is unsure of how it would work with the road being state-owned. Speed bumps and grooved center lines were discussed but would also contribute to unwanted noise in the district.

Adjournment

J. French made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: K. Angelo

Vote For: Unanimous For

C. Kaufmann adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

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