



Town of Sherman Historic District Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2026
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Jan Desiato (Alternate)

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

Call to Order: Chair C. Kaufmann called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

J. French made a motion to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes as presented.

Seconded by: C. McGowan

Vote: Unanimous For

Expo

C. Kaufmann and C. McGowan attended the Community Expo this year on behalf of the commission. Both felt the event went well and they saw a lot of new faces visit the booth. Booth visitors were interested in the difference between the Sherman Historical Society and the Historic District Commission. Per C. McGowan booth visitors appreciated that there is an historic district. C. Kaufmann and C. McGowan had interesting conversations with potential new commission members. C. Kaufmann said each iteration of the Expo improves.

Northrup House Fence

Alan Braverman reached out to C. Kaufmann via phone to advise the Sherman Historical Society (SHS) wants to repair the split rail fence along the road and install a new one along the brook for safety reasons. Per CK she spoke with JF and there was a rail in that location previously. Advised it was okay to put the same rail in again. The SHS wants the new fence to be in place

before the annual Barn Sale. J. French said there might be Inland & Wetlands concerns but that is for SHS to determine and obtain permission if necessary.

Stone Walls

J. French has been trying to put together a mental inventory of the historic stone walls in town and there are more than one would think. He pointed out the stone walls just in the immediate vicinity. He is questioning if foundation stones should also be included. He also said the stones (which are limestone) on the foundation for the Sherman Playhouse are interesting. Although those stones may have mortar spread on top to combat rodent infiltration. Stonework for the bridge could also be considered.

One of the aims of taking photos of these stonewalls is to use them to show others who need to build stone walls in the district examples of what they should look like. J. French will be available again in about two weeks. The commission will collectively meet Tuesday, June 9th after 3:00 p.m. to walk the district and take photos.

Any New Business

Commissioners noted there were new speed and intersection signs in the district and queried if this was part of the recent Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WESTCOG) study.

Adjournment

J. French made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: C. McGowan

Vote For: Unanimous For

C. Kaufmann adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next monthly meeting: Monday, June 15, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall