



Town of Sherman Historic District Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2026
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Connor McGowan, 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 May 18, 2026 minutes.

Seconded by: B. Pransky

Vote: Unanimous For

Annual Report

C. Kaufmann received an email from Liz LaVia (business manager) advising commission annual reports are due on September 11. C. Kaufmann has started to pull together a draft. Commissioners discussed including the following items: membership; number and nature of meetings; evaluated three Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications; Community Expo participation; reminder letter sent to district residents regarding district guidelines; the re-opening of the Scout House; and meeting with wildlife control at the Sherman Playhouse. C. Kaufmann will send a draft to other commissioners.

On a separate note, J. French wants to ensure that the storm windows have been put on the recently renovated Scout House.

DOT Guardrails

J. French said the guardrails in the district are rotting and falling apart and need to be replaced. The guardrails are owned and maintained by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT

DOT). The existing guardrails are made of Core-Tenn's steel which is no longer available. They can't stand up to what is put on the roads today. C. Kaufmann said the CT DOT has replaced the ones near the bridge with galvanized steel. However, former Historic District Commissioner Liz Mard indicated there was a prior agreement in place that weathering guardrails would be used by the CT DOT instead of galvanized steel. This was documented in an August 7, 2000 project report. J. French said there is no practical way to enforce it.

C. Kaufmann drafted an email to CT DOT regarding the matter which she shared with the commission. The email will be sent to the customer complaint center at CT DOT in hopes of a response.

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Stone Walls

J. French and C. McGowan did the stone wall tour walk and took photos. J. French wants to contrast the age of new stonewall work such as that at J. Bruzinski's residence compared to the Center Cemetery stonewall.

Possible New Historic District Residents

Owing to a home sale in the district, there is now a need to distribute the welcome package to the new owner moving into the house in Route 37 Center. This will occur once the closing has taken place.

Any New Business

C. Kaufmann raised the matter of the COA application and the step that requires having the applicant come back in to check for completeness after they take the steps necessary with the land use enforcement officer (LUEOP and Planning and Zoning. Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of this step. C. Kaufmann recommended taking a fresh look at the whole application at the next meeting and perhaps simplifying it.

C. Kaufmann expressed concern about commission membership. She and C. McGowan tried to solicit more commission member candidates at the Community Expo. B. Pransky will mention to his network. Per C. Kaufmann there are no strict pre-requisites.

Adjournment

J. French made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: B. Pransky

Vote For: Unanimous For

C. Kaufmann adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next monthly meeting: Monday, September 21, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall