



TOWN OF WINCHESTER HISTORIC COMMISSION

Thursday, May 7, 2026 - 4:00 PM

Town Hall – 338 Main Street – 2nd Floor – P. Francis Hicks Conference Room

Deborah Kessler – Chairman
Lynn Kessler – Vice-Chairman
Steve Dew

Hamish Lutris
Lynn Skokan
Esther Dew
2 Open Positions

Virginia Shultz-Charette
Sheila Sedlack – Historic Advisor
Open – Historic Consultant

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call
- 2) Agenda Review
- 3) Public Comment
- 4) Approval of Previous Minutes: April 9, 2026, regular meeting
- 5) Correspondence
- 6) Old Business
 - a) America's 250th participation (Hamish)
 - i) To be discussed in detail in June
 - b) Development of social media presence
 - i) To be discussed in detail in June
 - ii) Send items to Website Administrator Esther Dew
 - c) Freedom Trail Application Status (assigned TBD)
 - i) Zachary Mans from Beardsley (Ben's replacement) will attend to discuss involvement with HC
 - ii) National Freedom Trail
 - iii) Connecticut Freedom Trail
 - d) Wayside Sign Review – **URGENT!!!**
 - i) Paul Harrington has advised that the signs MUST be submitted by the END OF MAY
 - ii) ALL PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO LYNN NO LATER THAN MAY 15
 - e) Vacancies/New Member Discussion
 - i) 3 (!!!) vacancies remain
 - ii) Commission membership is dwindling – refocus priorities and realistic strategies needed
 - f) Historic projects for 2026 and beyond
 - i) East End Park Fountain (Hamish)
 - ii) Old Burying Grounds (Center Cemetery) restoration project – restoring, repairing, extensive cleaning
 - iii) 1955 Flood High Water Marker – Town Hall (Deb)
 - iv) Plaques for historic building and/or district designation
 - (1) Creation of designation certificate – TBD by Deb & Lynn
- 7) Subcommittee Reports
 - a) Historic District Creation (Steve and Lynn)
 - i) Map overlay – completed and ready for updating
 - ii) Old Burying Grounds already included in East End District
 - iii) Need plan to expand existing districts, create new districts
 - b) Discussion of Local Historic Designation definitions
 - i) Review and discuss handout
 - ii) Plan to go forward; date to submit to BOS
 - iii) Volunteer (?) to create Historic Designation document
- 8) New Business
 - a) Archivist needed
 - b) Fund raising efforts – ideas?
 - c) Vote to move meetings to Blue Room?

9) Events

- a) Litchfield County Chorale at First Church of Winsted (Hamish and Virginia) – 5/23/26 11 A.M.
- b) History After Hours @ AMP: Friday, August 7, 2026, 5-7pm: “Inundated: Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955” Documentary film screening followed by a talk by historian Hamish Lutris and a month-long exhibit
- c) History After Hours @ AMP: Friday, September 18, 2026, 5-7pm: “Who Were The Wobblies?: Hidden Labor History”. Movie screening of “The Wobblies” followed by a discussion led by historian Hamish Lutris and author/activist Steve Thornton
- d) History After Hours @ AMP: Friday, October 16, 2026, 5-7pm: “The Civilian Conservation Corps: Putting Depression-Era Men to Work”. Lecture, film screening, and Q & A led by historian Hamish Lutris and author Marty Podskoch Saturday, October 17, 2026 – Family-Friendly Hike in People’s State Forest to view examples of CCC workmanship led by Hamish Lutris (details to come)

10) Adjournment

Next regular meeting – June 11 (Special Meeting), 2026, 4:00 PM