



MINUTES OF SPECIAL HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting held Wednesday, August 12, 2026 – 7:30 PM

Room 207/209 - 84 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

Present: Joseph Dattilo (Chair), James Vibert (Vice Chair), Tony Falcone, Marian Hourigan,

John Torello, Andrew Martelli (Asst. Town Manager)

Absent: Kevin Daly, Gayle Nidoh, James Parys

Staff/Guests: James Redeker, Allen Skiparis, Chris DeAngelis - First Congregational Church

Celine L'Heureux (Minutes Clerk)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dattilo called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 1, 2026

- Ms. Hourigan made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Mr. Vibert made a second motion to approve the minutes.
- The motion was passed unanimously to accept meeting minutes.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None

6. PRE APPLICATION PLAN REVIEW

- **First Congregational Church, 111 Church Drive – Site Improvements**

Mr. Redecker provided an overview of the Capital Campaign Vision Fund 300 for the First Congregational Church of Cheshire at 111 Church Drive.

This Campaign is a multi-year, Capital Project initiative that will include large preservation, restoration and improvement work in the facilities and surrounding site. The work will include improvements to the surrounding parking lot.

Mr. DeAngelis provided an overview of the planned improvements for the parking lot and surrounding

walk-ways. An application will be needed for Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to address the parking space expansion and curb cut out.

There was much discussion regarding the mature trees on the site and the need to remove the older, larger trees and replace with much less invasive types of trees. Additionally, there was discussion on design and need to maintain design standards with current products. Finally, Mr. Redeker stated the Church's Environmental Group will be heavily engaged.

All work preparation is ready to begin once the permit process has been completed.

7. BUSINESS:

a. Update on the Hitchcock Philips House/Historical Society

Mr. Martelli attended a meeting on 7/24/2026 with Public Works discussing stabilizing the Portico. Options on how to stabilize the portico in the interim continue until funding needs and Town Budget is finalized.

A request to the Town Building Fund was made to the Town Council to fund this work which will be discussed and finalized when the Town Budget is finalized late this fall.

Letters to the Assistant Town Manager supporting the need for funding to stabilize the Portico are welcome to help support this cause.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Capture all work completed and pending by Commission for COA for Cheshire.
- Greenhouse update: Due to Jim Parys absence, this will be tabled to next meeting
- ID Badges for Historical Commission members:
 - Mr. Martelli will work with Commission to create badges for members at the September meeting
- First Statewide Local Historic District Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday , September 22 at Cheshire Town Hall Council Chambers (3rd Floor): 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Demolition Delay Ordinance (DDO) Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers
- Production Volunteers needed for the Spirit Alive Tour on Friday and Saturday, October 2 & 3, Time to be determined. Location is the Historical Hillside Cemetery. Areas that need assistance are food preparation, set-up, actors, etc.
- Lock12 Museum Preservation: Discussions have started to explore how to upgrade. The Commission fully supports moving ahead with ideas and plans to upgrade.
- Define and launch a project to repair and preserve this item as part of Cheshire History. More discussion to follow.
- Mr. Torello proposed establishing a new preservation district in Cheshire, citing what he believes to be strong interest and support. Mr. Dattilo suggested adding the item to the

September agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. Vibert made a motion to adjourn the meeting
- Ms. Hourigan made a second motion to adjourn the meeting
- The motion was passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM

Attest: _____
Celine L'Heureux, Minutes Clerk