

Annual Report for CLGs

CLG NAME: Wilton Historic District and Historic Property Commission

CONTACT FOR THIS FORM: Lori Fusco, Chair TELEPHONE: 203-451-1449

E-MAIL: Lori.Fusco@wiltonct.org

REPORTING PERIOD: Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)

(a) *A summary listing of and description of activities related to the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness by the municipality's Local Historic District and/or Property Commission(s). Please include the total number of applications for Certificate of Appropriateness that the Commission reviewed.*

COA Requests

Total: 2

January 2022- 70 Ridgefield Rd- aka Congregational Church- Follow up (from previous COA discussion & conditional approval on 4/2022) site visits by Commissioners to view louvre installation for HVAC system- Commission concurs installation aesthetic is acceptable, COA approved

August 2023- 31 West Church Street aka Bouton Funeral Home-A special meeting for a design consultation was held for the addition of a handicap accessible ramp. Original plans submitted would not be acceptable and Commissioners provided design guidance to the applicant. Applicant temporarily withdrew application in order to give themselves more time to hire an architect and redesign plans to incorporate the Commission's suggestions.

Demolition Permit Requests-Properties 50+ years of age- Non LHD

Total: 5

December 2022- 73 Cherry Lane- Property was determined to not be of historical significance. The Commission did not object to the demolition permit request.

March 2023- 200 Mill Rd garage- Property was determined to not be of historical significance. The Commission did not object to the demolition permit request.

April 2023- 96 Old Highway- Property was determined to not be of historical significance. The Commission did not object to the demolition permit request.

June 2023- 115 Valeview Rd- Property was determined to not be of historical significance. The Commission did not object to the demolition permit request.

July 2023- 209 Nod Hill Rd- partial demolition of barn. There were several outbuildings on this property. The portion in question was determined to not be of historical significance. The Commission did not object to the demolition permit request.

(b) A statement indicating the number of vacancies which occurred on the municipality's Local Historic District and/or Property Commission(s) during the reporting period and the duration of the vacancy or vacancies listed; or a statement indicating that no such vacancies occurred.

Commissioners: 2 Positions

Lisa Pojano term not renewed 11/22. Vacancy filled 12/22 by Jacob Bittner (resume attached)

Allison Sanders ends 10 year term 3/23. Vacancy filled 5/23 by Catherine Lipper (resume attached)

Alternate: 1 Position

Alice Schroeder term not renewed 11/22. Position is still vacant

(c) Where applicable, copies of resumes for any new members or alternate members of the municipality's Local Historic District and/or Property Commission(s) during the reporting period and a statement outlining the procedures that were followed in selecting and appointing these new commissioner(s).

*Resumes for Jacob Bittner & Catherine Lipper
See attached*

(d) Where applicable, a summary listing of any preservation-related municipal ordinances or ordinance amendments enacted or proposed during the reporting period.

None

(e) Where applicable. A summary listing of any publications, workshops, or other activities which were produced or undertaken by the municipality to promote and/or encourage local historic preservation during the reporting period.

October 2022- Present- Commission works with IT department to improve town GIS to include local historic districts. Commission proposes additional information be added on LHD but is limited by tech funding to complete their vision.

October 2022- Present: 275 Hurlbutt Street aka Ambler Farm “Yellow House” Platt Raymond House c1890: This property is owned by the Town of Wilton and located on a larger parcel currently leased by the Friends of Ambler Farm. It is currently on our local Historic Resources Inventory as well as the State Resources Inventory (source: ConnCriss)

<https://ctmaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ddd39a67a714449d8ad60467d10fcedd>

Excerpt from the HRI report is as follows (full report attached):

“The house, as well as the other Raymond-Ambler home at 257 Hurlbutt Street rank as two of the finest colonial/picturesque dwellings in Wilton. Many significant farm-related buildings, including an ice house and bank barn, survive making one of the most complete farms in town.”

Site walk on October 21, 2022 shows building in current disrepair. November 2022 HDHP meeting findings are discussed with Commission. Letter is written from Commission to BOS expressing concern over buildings current condition. On-going follow-up between Commission Chair(s) with 1st Selectwomen for status addressing this property. HDHP was advised a Committee would be formed including members of the HDHP and various other town officials to address this property. HDHP is asked for interested volunteers for Committee. Commission Chair Fusco & Commissioner Weatherly volunteer to participate in committee to be formed by 1st Selectwoman & BOS to address deteriorating conditions of this historically significant property. 1st Selectwomen advises BOS needs to determine right number of participants. As of the end of this reporting period a formation of committee is still pending.

October 2022- Chair Sanders presents draft statement in opposition to the proposed sewer extension at 19 Cannon Road which is located within the Cannondale registered National Historic District.

December 2022- Presentation by Patrice Gillespie, founding member of Wilton Go Green and currently Municipal Outreach Coordinator for CT Energy Network presented a guide to Historic Districts on how historic buildings can be modified to be more energy efficient.

February 2023- Mary Dunne SHPO informs Commission about grant opportunities.

February-May 2023- Commission proposes to the 1st Selectwomen Vanderslice that a grant be pursued for the pre-planning of Cannondale National Historic District. After several months of requests, the 1st Selectwomen redirects the grant to the Planning & Zoning department vice chair and advises HDHP to step down from their involvement until otherwise directed.

March 2023-Interdepartmental communication with planning & zoning and building departments to emphasis importance of notification of permit applications for exterior work within our LHD's and educating about the statutes supporting Certificate of Appropriateness requirements. It is important that these departments support HDHP mission for historic preservation as they are often the first place of notification of alterations.

April 2023-Letter of appreciation to the developer of 200 Danbury Rd aka Sharp Hill Square. This is an example of successful adaptive use incorporating a historically significant structure in development plans for a shopping center of which our Commission wanted to acknowledge gratitude, further promoting historic preservation.

May 2023- Guest Speaker Julie Hughes, Wilton History Archivist- addresses the Commission about the historic preservation information/tools available thru the History room currently located in the Wilton Public Library.

June 2023-Letters to individual homeowners in Local Historic Districts (approximately 38 households) notifying them of Certificate of Appropriateness requirements. We have received several inquiries as a result, which proves these letters gain attention and work!

(f) A copy of the municipality's most recently completed municipal audit

See attached

(g) A copy of any changes to your most recently approved affirmative action plan, if such changes have been adopted within the last 12 months.

None

For Federal Reporting purposes, please answer the following questions:

1. Number of properties designated.

During the reporting period, how many historic properties in the following categories were newly designated? Please include the number of properties in a district

National Register	<u> 0 </u>
State Register	<u> 0 </u>
Local Historic Districts and Properties	<u> 0 </u>
Historic Resources Inventory	<u> 0 </u>

2. Local Tax Incentives Program

- a. During the reporting period, did your community have a tax incentives program under local law that could be used to benefit (directly or indirectly) historic properties?

Yes _____ No X

- b. If the answer to question 2a is “No,” please proceed to question 3a. If the answer is “Yes,” during the reporting period, how many historic properties did your local government assist through your local government’s tax incentives program? _____

3. Local “Bricks and Mortar” Grants/Loans Program

- a. During the reporting period, did your community have a local government-funded grants/loans program that could be used for rehabilitating/restoring historic properties?

Yes _____ No X

- b. If the answer to question 3a is “No,” please proceed to question 4a. If the answer is “Yes,” during the reporting period, how many historic properties did your local government assist through your local government’s grants/loans program? _____

4. Local Property Acquisition Program

- a. During the reporting period, aside from eminent domain, did your local government have a program that could be used to acquire (or help to acquire) historic properties in whole or in part through purchase, donation, or other means?

Yes _____ No X

- b. If the answer to question 4a is “No,” you have finished the Annual Report. If the answer is “Yes,” during the reporting period, how many historic properties did your local government acquire (or help to acquire) in whole or in part through purchase, donation, or other means? _____

Attachments:

Resume Bittner

Resume Lipper

HRI Report Platt Raymond House aka Ambler Farm "Yellow House"

Municipal Audit Report