

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
March 26, 2026

Policy: Historic District Commission meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

UNAPPROVED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Special meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at 400 Main Street, Ridgefield CT, 06877, on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Sean O’Kane, Kathleen Daughters, Harriet Hanlon, Rhys Moore, Mark Blandford, and Sara Kaplan

Helen Dimos, candidate for open Alternate member position, was also present at the meeting. Mr. O’Brien welcomed Ms. Dimos to the meeting as did all of the Commission members.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 6:30 p.m.

1. Possible future historic districts

Dan O’Brien presented information on two prospective historical areas for consideration of designating such areas as regulated historical districts pursuant to State Statutes. Specifically, the two areas are the full length of Olmstead Lane running from West Lane (Rt. 35) to Wilton Road West (Rt. 33) and West Lane running from the corner of High Ridge Avenue west to the approximate corner of Olmstead Lane. Mr. O’Brien presented an inventory of the house properties for both of the proposed areas to be considered for such designation and noted that of the 27 houses in the proposed Olmstead Lane district, 22 of the 27 houses were over 50 years old (considered historic properties under guidelines established by the National Park Services) and 11 of those 22 historic houses were over 100 years old. Accordingly, 81% of the 27 properties are considered historic properties.

With respect to the proposed extension of the West Lane historic district, there are 17 properties included in this area with 15 of the 17 over 50 years old and 11 of those 15 over 100 years old. Accordingly, the proposed West Lane historic district extension has over 88% of historic houses.

The Commission discussed steps which includes initial contact with all property owners within the two proposed historic areas in order to obtain a sense of the level of possible support and interest among the property owners for considering such historic districts. This initial property owner contact will be followed up with a public meeting to be scheduled to which all such property owners will be invited in order to discuss the reasons and benefits of such designation and to address questions.

2. Annual Review

Mr. O'Brien presented an overview of the following three important areas related to the Commission conducting its business that we must remain cognizant of:

- Freedom of Information Act (especially with respect to email communications)
- Code of Ethics
- Town Charter

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 18, 2025 – Special Meeting Minutes
- January 28, 2026 – Site Visit and Special Meeting Minutes

Sean O'Kane moved and Kam Daughters seconded a motion to approve the December 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes, the December 18, 2025 – Special Meeting Minutes and the January 28, 2026 – Site Visit and Special Meeting Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. O'Brien
Chair