

**BOROUGH OF LITCHFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**P.O. Box 913, Litchfield, CT 06759 Phone: 860-567-8866**

---

A Special **Meeting** of the Borough of Litchfield Historic District Commission was held at the Pilgrim House, 21 Torrington Rd, Litchfield, CT 06759 on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026.**

- I. Chairman Simoncelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Recording of Attendance: Wendy Simoncelli, Norman Ambrose Sauer, Julia Metcalf, Tony Cecchinato, Bob Whelan and Jarett Monterio.

Commissioners absent: Glenn Hillman

Also present were: Elisa Bauer, Gayle Carr, David Peiffer, Patricia Peiffer, William Buckley and Robyn Ryle.

1. Discussion and consideration of the Litchfield HDC's possible role in a National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Section 106 Review of the DOT's plan to modify the roads and traffic controls in the Litchfield Historic District and/or other appropriate roles regarding the proposed changes.

Chairman Simoncelli explained the purpose of the special meeting is to discuss Historic District Commission's (HDC) possible role with regards to the DOT's plan to modify the roads and traffic controls in the historic district, in order to prevent or minimize any adverse effects to the historic properties affected. The HDC obtained preliminary plans from the DOT's presentation to the Borough of Litchfield and although all the changes indicated on the plans were not clear to the HDC, the HDC could obtain more information and play a part in influencing the final plans to preserve the historic character of the district.

Chairperson Simoncelli presented the Commission with a handout (see Exhibit A) that was obtained from the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation website that outlines the 4 steps in the process of a Section 106 Review. "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license or approve. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place." The Borough of Litchfield was designated a state historic district by the CT General Assembly in 1959 and was put on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1978. Also, the central part of the borough was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1968. The HDC is charged with the preservation of the historic nature of the Borough. Section 106 Review is an avenue for the HDC to request the opportunity to be a consultant and play an advisory role in the Section 106 Review and minimize any potential adverse effects of the proposed changes.

Discussion took place regarding the potential role of the HDC and Chairperson Simoncelli then asked for the Commission's individual input. Ms. Metcalf said that based on the HDC's mission, it is important to be involved with changes in traffic flow and controls and the effect on the Green and the surrounding properties in the historic district. Mr. Cecchinato believes the HDC should be consulted in the Section 106 Review process and the HDC should consider advising against any adverse changes that may be precedent setting. Mr. Ambrose Sauer is in favor of requesting a Section 106 Review for several reasons, including the HDC has: expert local knowledge of the historic district, the opportunity to influence project design and minimize adverse effects, a statutory role in preservation, representation of community and stakeholder interests, and the precedence of other HDC's routinely participating in Section 106 Reviews. Mr. Monterio and Mr. Whelan both support a Section 106 Review and recognize the importance the HDC has as a consultant in the project design and decision making process. Chairman Simoncelli stated that the other local governments (Town of Litchfield and Borough of Litchfield) have

# FINAL

their own agendas (such as fixing the traffic flow issues) and it is only the HDC whose main agenda is to consider the effect of changes on the historic character of the Litchfield Historic District, and given this is an important agenda, the HDC should play an advisory role in the Section 106 Review process.

It was also noted that the request for the HDC to be a consultant has to be considered by the federal agency, but the request could be declined.

Ms. Metcalf made a motion for the Commission to request to participate as a consulting party for a National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Section 106 Review of the DOT's plan to modify roads and traffic controls within the Borough of Litchfield's Historic District, via sending an email to the DOT, with a cc to SHPO. Mr. Ambrose Sauer seconded. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:34 pm Mr. Ambrose Sauer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cecchinato seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Simoncelli, Chair

**EXHIBIT A**

**Section 106 Review Process**

<https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties/section-106-process/achieving-resolution>



**Introduction**

**An Introduction to Section 106**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place.

Section 106 gives the ACHP, interested parties, and the public the chance to weigh in on these matters before a final decision is made. This process is an important tool for citizens to lend their voice in protecting and maintaining historic properties in their communities.

## DETERMINATION



Does a federal project with the potential to affect historic properties exist?

YES

Section 106 applies.

The process begins when a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, if any are present.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEXT STEP:  
INITIATING SECTION 106



NO

Section 106 does not apply.

No further review will occur.

A SECTION 106 REVIEW IS NOT REQUIRED.

### Step 1

#### Initiating Section 106

**The agency identifies who should participate in the review.**

Consulting parties may include the State (or Tribal) Historic Preservation Officer, the local government, an applicant for federal assistance (if one is involved), and interested federally recognized Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations. Historic preservation organizations and others with an interest in the preservation outcomes of the project or those with a legal or economic interest may also be invited to join consultation. The agency also plans how it will involve the public.

#### [Identifying Historic Properties](#)

**The agency identifies the historic properties that could be affected.**

The agency gathers information to decide if any properties in the area that may be affected by the project are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

If no historic properties are present, or if those present will not be affected by the project, the review may conclude here.

# FINAL

## Step 2

### Identifying Historic Properties

**The agency identifies the historic properties that could be affected.**

The agency gathers information to decide if any properties in the area that may be affected by the project are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

If no historic properties are present, or if those present will not be affected by the project, the review may conclude here.

### Determination



Have any historic properties been identified?

YES

Yes, at least one historic property was identified.

If at least one historic property is found that could be affected by the project, the federal agency must proceed to the assessment of effects. The agency must notify all consulting parties and invite their views.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEXT STEP:  
ASSESSING EFFECTS



NO

No historic property was identified.

The federal agency documents its finding, seeks the concurrence of the SHPO/THPO in a 30-day review period, and makes information available to consulting parties and the public.

 THE SECTION 106 PROCESS CONCLUDES.

## Step 3 Assessing Effects

**The federal agency determines if historic properties may be adversely affected.**

The federal agency determines how historic properties might be affected by the project and whether any of those effects would be considered adverse. The agency does so in consultation with other participants in the review. “Adverse effects” are those that diminish characteristics qualifying a property for inclusion in the National Register.

If there are no potential adverse effects to a historic property, the review may conclude here.

### DETERMINATION



Are there any adverse effects to a historic property?

YES

One or more historic properties could be adversely affected.

A finding of adverse effects requires further consultation on ways to resolve them.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEXT STEP:  
ACHIEVING A RESOLUTION



NO

Historic properties will not be adversely affected.

The federal agency documents its finding, shares it with all consulting parties for a 30-day review period, and makes information available to the public.



THE SECTION 106 PROCESS CONCLUDES.

# FINAL

## Step 4 Achieving a Resolution

**The agency and consulting parties work to reach agreement on a resolution.**

In the final step of the process, the agency explores measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties and reach agreement with the State (or Tribal) Historic Preservation Officer (and the ACHP in some cases) on measures to resolve them.

### DETERMINATION

---



Were the parties able to agree on a solution?

YES

A resolution was achieved.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement (PA), which records the resolution measures agreed upon to resolve adverse effects, is developed in consultation and executed prior to approval of the project.

NO

The parties were unable to reach agreement.

The federal agency must obtain formal advisory comments from the ACHP, which are sent to the head of the agency, who then must consider them in making a final decision about whether the project will proceed.

### RELATED RESOURCES

# FINAL

The entire borough of [Litchfield, Connecticut](#) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the [Litchfield Historic District](#), designated in 1978, with a core area also designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1968 for its well-preserved late 18th-century New England village character.

## Key Details:

- [Borough Designation \(1959\)](#): The entire Litchfield borough was designated a state historic district by Connecticut's General Assembly, the first in the state.
- [National Historic Landmark \(1968\)](#): A central part of the borough, recognized as a quintessential New England town center, became a NHL.
- [NRHP Listing \(1978\)](#): The complete borough, with over 475 structures, was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

This designation protects its significant colonial and Federal architecture, broad green, and historic streets, making it a prime example of a historic New England community.