

MEETING MINUTES of ACTION

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6:00PM

3 Romer's Alley (Sugar Loaf)

Opening - 6:02PM

Attendance/Roll Call: Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, James Donovan, Jane Dysinger, Bill Greene, Martine DiPasquale
Absent: Susannah Devine

Liaison(s): Town Supervisor Brandon Holdridge

Community/Observer(s): Veronica Mott, Langdon Morris

Guest Presenter(s): Gina Chiasano

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

- July 24, 2025 Motion to approve Minutes Bill Greene, Second Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn
Vote in favor: Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, James Donovan, Jane Dysinger,
Bill Greene, Martine DiPasquale No abstentions

Public Comment (sign-up at meeting)

Town Supervisor Brandon Holdridge - update on Community Preservation Fund legislation and Town Comprehensive Plan + proposed town code changes to include Conservation Advisory Council role. There will be a public hearing on October 22nd at Town Hall. **Other Q:** likelihood of Exit 127 being "saved"? Unlikely, but there is a commitment that Exit 127 will not be closed until renovations to both Exit 126 and Exit 128 are complete.

Gina Chiasano: Yelverton Inn history and preservation advocacy – There are a few online sites to get information. Wikipedia page: [Yelverton Inn and Store - Wikipedia](#), information on the Chester Historical Society website: [Yelverton Inn by Frank Durland | Chester Historical Society](#), Facebook: [Friends of Yelverton Inn | Chester NY | Facebook](#), and a page on the Historical Markers Database website: [Yelverton Inn Historical Marker](#). The Yelverton Inn still contains many of its original features such as many of its windows, wooden floors, etc. The buildings do need repair and maintenance. The site was historic for its role as a meeting place during the period of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. There are literal receipts to prove its use as meeting place by historic figures. There are also on-site trees which may be older than 200 years old, which deserve protection. CONSENSUS -Council should learn more about the trees on the site and the history of the Inn to better its advocacy for protection and preservation. Sharing information with other groups and professional organizations across Chester would be advised. Additionally, an information table at the Repair Café will include materials about Yelverton Inn history and efforts to save the historic site.

Old Business

- Repair Café (Update) DATE: OCTOBER 25th 10AM – 2PM
 - Volunteer Coach needed for bike repair
- Projects and public engagement (Update)
 - Motion to approve letter and one-pager describing role of Conservation Advisory Council Bill Greene, Second Jane Dysinger
Vote in favor: Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, James Donovan, Jane Dysinger, Bill Greene, Martine DiPasquale No abstentions
 - Calendar
 - CONSENSUS – review a draft at next meeting and vote on its production next meeting
 - Cards, brochures (informational) theme: “What Is This?”
 - CONSENSUS – review plan for hosting community informational event in SLPAC next meeting

New Business

- HVRC – Building Bridges Award CONSENSUS: Plan to encourage and recruit volunteers to participate in Climate Smart Community activities
- Local interest: Yelverton Inn, Barn and Store
 - CONSENSUS – support effort with informational advocacy for its historic relevance and the potentially 200yrs+ old tree on the property. Extend advocacy to support preservation effort that can align with seller need.
- Ad hoc working groups
 - Priorities – projects and public engagement
- Other(s)
 - Discussion: Policy needed that establishes a process for members to bring environmental concerns, issues, and ideas to the Council that includes a vote to assign someone to investigate and return a report/recommendation to the Council. CONSENSUS – proposal and vote to adopt such a policy at the next meeting
 - Discussion for next meeting: solar energy and the push for municipally-owned solar in Town of Warwick. CONSENSUS – Short presentation of facts needed.

Adjournment 8:03PM