**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**

**Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes**

September 16, 2025

Municipal Office Building, Meeting

1. Chairman Will Brady called the Historic District Commission to order at 7:30 PM.
2. ATTENDANCE Historic District Commission Members: Will Brady-Chairman, Steven Rossi, and Joe Zirlis.
   Absent: Jack Lovejoy, Karl Stofko, David Nelson, and Christian Miller.
3. Public Hearing
4. Acknowledgement
5. Application 25-04 – 5 Landing Hill Road (property location), David Lovejoy (applicant & property owner). Map 026, Lot 026. Proposed installation of a three-foot-tall picket fence.

   The applicant presented a proposal to install a three-foot-tall wooden picket fence on top of a recently repaired stone wall at 5 Ling Hill Road. The fence is a historically accurate reproduction of one that existed when the house was built in 1794. Structural repairs to the wall, including drainage redirection, were completed first due to safety concerns. The fence will be installed using steel rods and hydraulic cement for stability. The committee expressed support. This item will be noticed as a Public Hearing for the next meeting.

6. Informal Discussion
   David Lovejoy discussed concerns about a collapsing historic stone retaining wall along Route 149/151, originally constructed in the late 1700s. Initial discussions with the state suggested they would take responsibility for repairs, but a recent change indicated that only the lower section would be handled by the state, leaving the upper portion to the homeowner. This shift has created confusion around jurisdiction and responsibility. The wall predates the highway and is believed to be affected by road vibration, plowing, and blasting activity, as well as the weight of modern traffic. The owner has explored mitigation options and emphasized the wall's structural and historical importance. The Committee discussed avenues for state or preservation support. Questions were raised about the impact of heavy traffic on the wall and the role of DEEP or other agencies in its maintenance.

7. Approval of Minute
8. Adjournment

   **Motion** to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.
   Nelson/Rossi
   Passed unanimously.
   Respectfully Submitted,
   E. Ruth Ziobron