

**Town of Goshen, Connecticut  
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Phone: (860) 491-2308**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TO PREVENT THE UNCONTROLLED LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES, AREAS OR STRUCTURES THAT ARE OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL OR HISTORICAL VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY.

ISSUES:

1. Historic Preservation through Private Action and Education.

Goshen's residents are proud of the Town's colonial heritage and its many well preserved, historic buildings, structures and places. There is a strong consensus that the Town's historic features should be preserved and that all townspeople, especially school children, should learn more about Goshen's local history.

Of special importance are the concentration of historic dwellings and buildings in the Town Center and West Goshen. These places were added to the "National Register of Historic Places" by the National Park Service – Goshen Center in 1982 and West Goshen also known as "Canada Village," in 1987. National designation is primarily an honorary classification although it may provide protection of an historic building under a federally funded construction project. The remains of the former church foundation on North Goshen Road, on Torrington Water Company land remains a significant landmark. A special service is held yearly at this site to remember the people who resided in this area of Town and worshipped at this Church.

While there is a strong feeling that historic buildings should be preserved, citizens attending previous Town Plan forums preferred educational and voluntary efforts to encourage historic preservation, rather than a regulatory method. However there was no opposition to assessment of other options for accomplishing historic preservation, in addition to voluntary means.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Demolition Delay Ordinance

The Town should consider adopting a demolition delay ordinance which, if approved in accord with Section 29-406b of the Connecticut General Statutes, would permit delaying the approval of a permit to demolish an historic structure by up to 90 days. This would provide a warning period and opportunity for others to purchase and protect the structure.

2. Tax incentives to Encourage Historic Preservation

Consider tax incentives for maintaining or improving the historic quality of structures (see Sect. 12-127a of the Connecticut General Statutes).

3. Encourage Private Historic Preservation Action

Encourage private historic preservation action by property owners – including placement of a “Façade Easement” on a historic structure, or a “Construction Easement” on an important historic place or space.

4. Consider amendments to the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations to ensure reasonable consideration of historic structures, places, etc. By requiring identification of significant historic features on site plans and subdivision plans.

5. State Scenic Road Designation

Consider requesting State Scenic Road designation for Route 63 in Goshen Center as a means of preserving the rotary and the historic character of the Town Center.

6. Historic Burial Grounds

Consider provisions of Sec. 19a-315c of the State Statutes and PA 89-109, which relate to the use and maintenance of ancient burial places, and the protection of grave markers.