

Sweeney, Brian

From: Roberts, Scott A. [Scott.Roberts@ct.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:39 AM
To: Sweeney, Brian; Linnartz, Richard; Alvord, Harold
Cc: Servidone, Anthony; Hayward, Hugh H
Subject: FW: Rowayton Avenue widening project
Attachments: NPT letter on Rowayton Avenue widening_20140113_0001.pdf

Hi Brian -

I reviewed the attached letter, and will offer the following:

Because this is a federally-aided project, a complete review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required, not optional, and a full NEPA review was conducted on this project, including a Section 106 review. As you are aware, ConnDOT received a recommendation dated June 21, 2010 from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Survey of the area surrounding and within the proposed project limits. A final report was submitted to SHPO on May 16, 2011, and in a memo dated June 25, 2011, the SHPO issued a determination that "no historic properties will be affected" by the proposed improvements.

Subsequent to this determination by SHPO, the Department, under our Joint Stewardship & Oversight Agreement with FHWA, approved this project as a Categorical Exclusion (Title 23, CFR, Part 771 - "Class II"), thereby indicating that the proposed improvements will have no significant effect on the environment. The Department also granted approval of the preliminary design at this time, thus committing to moving forward with Final Design and Construction. The Cat. Ex. approval date was Aug. 15, 2011, and Design Approval was dated Aug. 16, 2011.

With respect to the comment regarding the requirement to conduct an environmental review under the *Connecticut Environmental Policy Act* (CEPA), the conclusion of a complete NEPA process fulfills the requirements of CEPA, (in other words, we're not required to prepare "dual" env. documents - See Conn Gen Statutes, Chapter 439, Sec. 22a-1f).

Please feel free to call me if any questions or further concerns. Regards, Scott.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sweeney, Brian [mailto:BSweeney@norwalkct.org]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 8:41 AM
To: Roberts, Scott A.
Cc: Alvord, Harold; Linnartz, Richard
Subject: FW: Rowayton Avenue widening project

Scott - comments?

-----Original Message-----

From: Alvord, Harold
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Sweeney, Brian; Linnartz, Richard
Subject: FW: Rowayton Avenue widening project

Any impact?

-----Original Message-----

From: Tod Bryant [mailto:tod@norwalkpreservation.org]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 7:19 AM

To: Rilling, Harry

Cc: Alvord, Harold; Forrest, Daniel; Tammy Langalis; Barbis-RFD, Mike; Igeneri, John E.

Subject: Rowayton Avenue widening project

Mayor Rilling,

A letter from the Norwalk Preservation Trust alerting you to required state and federal reviews of the project to widen Rowayton Avenue is attached. The NPT joins with many Rowayton residents to oppose this unnecessary project in a historic neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Tod Bryant

--

Tod Bryant

President

Norwalk Preservation Trust

Cell - [REDACTED]

Office - 203-853-7495



**State Historic
Preservation Office**



DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

July 25, 2011

Ms. Mary G. Harper
President
Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 543
Storrs, CT 06268

Subject: State Project No. 102-340 – Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey –
Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue beneath Bridge No. 4152R, Norwalk.

Dear Ms. Harper:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the draft report completed by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) summarizing your recent reconnaissance survey of the referenced project. The City of Norwalk and Department of Transportation are planning the reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue which will entail alterations to Bridge No. 4152R. This bridge carries the Metro North rail line over Rowayton Avenue and is currently too low to safely accommodate local vehicular traffic. The AHS reconnaissance survey included background research, pedestrian survey, subsurface testing, and laboratory analysis of field data. Based on our review of the draft report it appears that the AHS survey was completed in accordance with the standards established in SHPO's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

AHS determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project have been subject to pervasive ground disturbance. Relatively high densities of nineteenth-century domestic artifacts were encountered near the southern section of the APE near Belmont Place. Historic ceramic sherds and shellfish remains were collected from a series of fill deposits that also contained modern refuse. The historic period artifacts appear to be associated with the occupations of a former house that stood on the adjacent property, #1 Belmont Place, between at least 1856 and 1965. This resource has been assigned Site No. 103-52 in the state inventory of archaeological sites. SHPO concurs with AHS's professional opinion that Site 103-52 lacks integrity and is therefore not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

No potentially intact or significant archaeological resources were identified during testing of the remaining sections of the APE. SHPO concurs with AHS that no further archaeological investigations of this project area are warranted. Based on the results of the survey and the professional recommendations of AHS, it is SHPO's opinion that no historic properties will be affected by this project. SHPO requests two bound copies of the final report for our files and archive.



Rowayton Ave - Norwalk Proj. No. 102-340
June 21, 2010
(Page 2/2)

For further information, please contact Daniel Forrest, Staff Archaeologist, at (860) 429-2761 or Daniel.Forrest@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bahlman
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mark K. Alexander/ConnDOT - OEP
Bellantoni/OSA



**State Historic
Preservation Office**



State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

*Harper – Proj. No. 102-340 – Arch. Recon. Survey – Reconstruction of Rowayton Ave, Norwalk.
July 25, 2011
(Page 2/2)*

The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this project. This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For further information, please contact Daniel Forrest, Staff Archaeologist, at (860) 256-2761 or Daniel.Forrest@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bahlman
State Historic Preservation Officer

CC: R. Cless/DOT-OEP



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: 860-594-3232

August 31, 2010

Mr. Richard Linnartz, P.E.
Principal Engineer
City of Norwalk
Room 225 - Norwalk City Hall
Norwalk, CT 06856

Dear Mr. Linnartz

Subject: Project No. 102-340
Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue
City of Norwalk

Enclosed for your information is a letter dated June 21, 2010 from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), regarding the need for a professional archeological survey for this project.

The City is hereby requested to incorporate this work into the design of this project. As stated in SHPO's letter, all archaeological studies must be undertaken in accordance with SHPO's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archeological Resources*.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Engineer, Tony Servidone, at telephone number (860) 594-3478.

Very truly yours,

Scott A. Roberts, P.E.
Project Manager
Bureau of Engineering and
Construction

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Keefe, P.E., GM2 Associates, Inc.



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

June 21, 2010

Historic Preservation
and Museum Division

One Constitution Plaza
Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
06103

860.256.2800
860.256.2763 (T)

Mr. Hugh Hayward
Principal Engineer – Consultant Design
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06111

Subject: Project No. 102-340, Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue
beneath Bridge No. 4152R, Norwalk, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Hayward:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the above-referenced project. The project include the lowering of the existing Rowayton Avenue road grade by 1.5 feet, the widening of the travel lanes to 12 feet, and the construction of a 5-foot wide sidewalk on the east side of the road. Minor rights-of-way acquisitions are anticipated in the surrounding residential neighborhood and areas of regrading to accommodate the lowered road height will affect most of the abutting properties.

SHPO notes that several historic houses are located on properties adjacent to the project area, including Rowayton Avenue # 315 to the north of the bridge, and the Gordon and Cheung Houses to the south of the bridge. Additionally, the mid-twentieth century ranch-style house at #310 Rowayton Avenue appears to have been constructed on the site of a demolished historic period house. It is our opinion that the project area has an elevated potential to contain potentially significant historic period archaeological deposits. We therefore recommend that ConnDOT complete a professional archaeological reconnaissance survey to identify any such resources that may be affected by this project. The survey must be completed in accordance with the standards established in our *An Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. No construction or other ground disturbing activities should be initiated until this office has had an opportunity to review and comment upon the requested survey.

This office appreciates the opportunity to have reviewed and commented upon the proposed undertaking and looks forward to further coordination with ConnDOT.

This comment is provided in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

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