Congregational Church COA Applications #2021-008 & #2021-009

Letters of Support (As of July 26, 2021)

<u>Letters of Support</u>: Received from members of the Community, members of the Congregational Church and nearby property owners.

NAME:	<u>DATE RECEIVED</u> :
Kerry Noble	6/29 & 7/11
Curtis Rand	7/12
Anne Williams	7/12
Carol Magowan	7/13
Morrill Family	7/18
Sharon Hamilton	7/6
Margie Vail	7/2
Joanne Hayhurst	7/1
Beth Isler	7/1
Lorna Edmundson	6/29
Joanne Taber	7/1
Malcom Brown	6/30
Lee & Barbara Collins	7/1
Daniel Edmundson	6/29
Theresa Carroll	7/26
Betsy Beck	6/28
Lousie F. Brown	6/29

From: Lee Collins < k1lee3434@gmail.com> Subject: Salisbury Congregational Church

Date: July 1, 2021 at 4:03:35 PM EDT **To:** <u>historicsalisburyct@gmail.com</u>

Hello, Carol

We have attended your Historic District Commission meetings where the improvements to our church roofs have been discussed. Your careful progress on this matter has been impressive, and the town is fortunate to have such dedicated members. We hope that you will approve our requests, and that our historic building will continue to grace the town center for years and years to come.

Best wishes, Lee and Barbara Collins

From: "daniel.edmundson@edmundsonlaw.com" < daniel.edmundson@edmundsonlaw.com >

Subject: Salisbury Congregational Church: Re-roofing and Solar Project

Date: June 29, 2021 at 3:57:21 PM EDT

To: "historicsalisburyct@gmail.com" < historicsalisburyct@gmail.com >

Dear Carol and members of the Salisbury Historic District Commission (please share with all members of the Commission).

I write in strong support for the full re-roofing and solar project of the Church, of which our family are members,.

I believe the project would be a strong and fitting reinforcement of the wonderful image of Salisbury, and would be a significant contribution to important environmental goals.

It would not detract from the harmony and beauty of the District, first because of the attention being given to choice of high-quality materials that will blend in nicely, and second because the roofing and the panels will be 30-40 feet above street level, well above the sight plane of people on the street.

We have the opportunity to make a leadership statement for an outstanding project, and I urge you to approve the full Project.

Respectfully

Daniel C. Edmundson 20 Jackson Hill Road PO Box 1777 Sharon CT 06069-1777 +1.917.596.6969 From: Beth Isler < bethrelsi@yahoo.com > Subject: Sal. Cong. Church green initiatives

Date: July 1, 2021 at 7:30:20 PM EDT **To:** historicsalisburyct@gmail.com

As a congregant at the Salisbury Congregational church I would urge the committee to approve the church's request to protect our environment by the installation of solar panels on a metal roof.

Beth

On Jun 29, 2021, at 5:03 PM, ledmundson@edmundsonhighered.com wrote:

Dear Carol Mason, Chair of the Salisbury Historic District Commission and All Commission Members,

As a member of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, I urge you to approve the full reroofing and solar project that the Church has proposed to you.

The project is an expression of our Church's commitment to caring for this earth that we humans inherited, as well as a strategic and highly practical plan to save resources and reduce our carbon footprint. It seems fitting that, the Town of Salisbury, with its strong commitment to land trusts, parks, hiking trails, recycling and many more initiatives that further environmental goals, would want to support this project which could be a model for the community.

We all care deeply about preserving the quality and beauty of our community, and we realize that the Congregational Church of Salisbury is a central and highly visible presence in town. This project — with high quality materials chosen to blend discretely and be positioned high above street and eye level — will in no way detract from the architectural harmony of the town center.

By supporting this outstanding, carefully-conceived project in full, we all – Church members and the members of the Salisbury Historic District Commission - have a superb opportunity to play a key leadership role in caring for our planet and making a long-term investment in our town that will reap benefits for generations to come.

I support the full project whole-heartedly, and urge you to do to same.

Respectfully, L.D. Edmundson (Please share my letter with all members of the Commission.)

Lorna Duphiney Edmundson, Ed.D.

President Emerita, Wilson College

Higher Education Coach/Consultant on Strategic & International Issues

20 Jackson Hill Road, P.O. Box 1777, Sharon, Ct 06069-1777

717-360-3900 ledmundson@edmundsonhighered.com

Letter concerning the application for a standing seam metal roof and solar panels for the Salisbury Congregational Church

Carol Magowan <carolmagowan@gmail.com>
Tue 7/13/2021 10:53 AM
To: Georgia Petry < gpetry@salisburyct.us>

- > Dear Georgia Petry,
- > In the thirty years that I have been fortunate enough to call Salisbury my home, I have served on many boards.
- > My strong sense of community and desire to uphold what makes this part of New England a unique and wonderful place to live and bring up my family meant that I devoted my energies to wherever I was needed and could help to make a small difference.

>

- > The first committee that I served on was the Salisbury Historic Commission.
- > My interest and love of historic architecture was the impetus. I was also a partner in a design/build company, Amber-Magowan, that specialized in designing and building historically inspired homes in the area. Elyse Harney can testify to this as she sold all of them. I have the highest regard and respect for the houses and buildings in our town that speak of another time when craftsmanship was prized. Imbedded in all of the many architectural styles that are scattered throughout our area, there was also a desire to try out new designs and ways of building to keep pace with a changing world.

>

> The SDHC has an important role to play in our beautiful town where there are many fine examples of 18th and 19th C. architectural styles. The Congregational Church is a handsome 18th C. building that the trustees there have maintained to the highest degree, preserving and enhancing both the inner and outer structure of the building. The church is going to need a new roof within the next three to five years. A standing seam metal roof would last a mighty long time compared to an asphalt roof, a roof that I find ugly and cheap looking, especially on such an important building. A metal roof might not be as appropriate historically but it won't add to the fossil fuel dilemma of using asphalt. A cedar shingle roof would be historically appropriate if it weren't for the fact that the church also wants to put on solar panels to address the need to recognize and actively do something to abate the climate crisis that is here and getting worse.

>

- > Upholding the historic integrity of a building is important.
- > I would argue that just as architectural styles changed over the years along with the response to changing times, so must all of us face our own changing times and recognize that conserving energy and getting away from fossil fuels is a commendable act that should be applauded. Historic commissions all over the country are dealing with this issue now and will have to make wise decisions in paving the way going forward.

>

- > My hope is that you will grant permission for the standing seam metal roof so that we can install the solar panels and embark on a cleaner energy path.
- > What a great example for the town to see this iconic building lead the way into our changing world.

>

> I understand that this is a decision of significant importance, one in which you will lend your expertise,

sensitivity and due diligence as you debate the pros and cons of this proposal.

> As you look backwards to the time so many of the town's beautiful historic homes and building were constructed, please, also look forward to the time when many of these same structures may need the enhancement of modern technology to serve the betterment of us all.

> Please, share this letter with your committee.

> Respectfully

> Respectfully,

> Carol Magowan

Salisbury Congregational Church

The Morrill Family <wfmorrill@earthlink.net>
Sun 7/18/2021 1:18 PM

To: Georgia Petry <gpetry@salisburyct.us>

Dear Ms. Petry and Salisbury Historic District Commission,
Thank you for you care for Salisbury's rich architectural heritage and
for your open-minded consideration of the Salisbury Congregational Church's
application for a standing-seam metal roof and solar panels.

I have been a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church for forty years and deeply engaged with studying its 275 year history, including the building of the Meeting House and its various renovations and additions. The Meeting House is a truly beautiful building. The parish hall, added to accommodate the baby boom of the 1960s, serves a range of church and community needs, while maintaining the beauty of the Meeting House and Library Street.

In every generation, the church has adapted to better serve its members and the community. Wisely, the current leadership sees care for our natural environment as part of the responsibility of every individual and institution. Addition of solar panels onto an extensive, unobstructed, south-facing roof seems a perfect contribution to that mission.

I hope you will approve the requested roof replacement project so that solar panels can be installed as part of Salisbury's response to an urgent, worldwide human crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of the project and my letter, Sue Morrill 140 Bunker Hill Road, Salisbury, CT On Jun 29, 2021, at 5:53 PM, Kerry Noble < kerry.noble@me.com> wrote:

To the Salisbury Historic Commission,

I lost my house to fire in 2006 and after a time found a way to rebuild, both with purpose and of course sadness. I rebuilt a completely sustainable home, with a good HES rating (Home Energy Score by US Better Building)and with all reusable materials. I came to see that the only thing that really matters is that our earth survives. We may be gone from the planet, but if we now try to protect the earth, we can know we did the right thing to protect the planet.

We are stewards. We would never want to negatively impact our town. Our efforts at the Salisbury Congregational Church are with purpose. By the solar panels, we will generate what we need to sustain us with new technology. Nothing more.

We have hired a very valued, experienced consultant to guide us. We know the cost, we know the benefits, we know the effort, and we now seek your approval of our enormous effort to do right by the planet and show leadership in that effort.

We ask that you approve our proposal.

Thank you,

Kerry Noble 170 Canaan Rd Salisbury, CT

CURTIS RAND P.O. BOX 452 SALISBURY, CT 06068

<u>crand37@gmail.com</u> 860-287-9987

Ms. Georgia Petry, Administrator Salisbury Historic District Commission 27 Main Street Salisbury, CT. 06068 7/12/2021

Dear Ms. Petry and the Salisbury Historic District Commission,

For many years my family has owned the historic red office building at 5 Academy St and I write this as an abutting property owner to the Congregational Church property at Library Street. I believe that the proposals to install metal roofing and solar panels have considerable merit and I support both of them.

- Metal roofing is more environmentally friendly than asphalt; it is completely recyclable, whereas asphalt shingles typically end up in landfills; it has a lower labor cost when one considers its far longer useful life; and asphalt uses large amounts of non-renewable fossil fuels to produce. Metal is lighter and stronger than asphalt shingles. I have seen metal roofs on many historic barns and houses throughout New England, perhaps due to their longer life and ability to shed snow. As an abutter who looks at the north side of the church roof, I would far prefer to look at a metal roof rather than asphalt.
- Solar panels create electric energy which produces none of the heat-trapping CO2 that is causing so many global climate warming problems. The use of fossil fuels for electricity is (like asphalt shingles) a non-renewable source of CO2. Solar panels are relatively short-lived in comparison to the building itself, but they represent an important chapter in the effort to reduce our carbon footprint. While solar panels and metal roofing may seem to some to be inconsistent with the esthetics of historic buildings, I believe that the same can be true of asphalt shingles and fossil fuels imported from far away. Technology has advanced and the Congregation has a role in environmental leadership which I believe that these panels and the metal roofing fulfill.

Thank you for your consideration.

with Park

Curtis Rand
5 Academy Street

Salisbury, CT

From: Joanne Taber < joannetaber98@gmail.com >

Subject: solar panels

Date: July 1, 2021 at 6:02:52 PM EDT **To:** historicsalisburyct@gmail.com

I am strongly in favor of having solar panels and a metal roof on our church (Salisbury Congregational Church) as requested by our Green Team. My opinion is not that this is a "nice" idea, but it is an essential and timely change for our church and for the community.

--

Thank you,

Joanne Taber

Please Note My New Email Address: <u>JoanneTaber98@gmail.com</u>

From: Margie < margie.vail@comcast.net > Subject: Pending concern for solar roofing

Date: July 2, 2021 at 2:30:14 PM EDT **To:** historicsalisburyct@gmail.com

To the committee,

As a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church and as a resident and registered voter in Salisbury, I urge you to support the church's plan to enable the church to follow science and ensure a healthier environment for the town, and indeed the planet.

I have previously served in other communities on Historic District Commissions and appreciate the time and care involved in your mission. The Congregational Church mission in this case; green energy, will help to keep the Town moving

forward in ways that support health for its citizens and environs. It is hoped that it will be endorsed by all and that more will come to understand the necessity to act to protect and ensure the future of our lovely town.

Sincerely, Margaret C Vail

Sent from my iPhone Margie Vail From: Joanne Hayhurst < joannehayhurst@gmail.com>

Subject: Salisbury Congregational Church

Date: July 1, 2021 at 8:20:37 PM EDT **To:** historicsalisburyct@gmail.com

I am a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church writing to endorse our church's application to the Historical Society for approval of a new, metal roof and solar panels. In this time of our town's history, I believe that efforts to reduce our carbon footprint is a way to recognize the current and future realities, while preserving the outstanding beauty of the buildings in our community. Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough response to our request.

Sincerely
Joanne Hayhurst

Sharon B. Hamilton P O Box 222 Salisbury, CT 06068-0222

To: The Salisbury Historic District Commission Chair and all Commission Members

Re: Application - Improvements to The Congregational Church of Salisbury

In reviewing this request, I was impressed by the thoroughness of the plan for renovations that will not only preserve but improve this structure. Rather than proceeding in a piecemeal fashion, the committee has addressed the current limitations and inefficiencies of this historic building with a holistic and comprehensive approach. Its attention to detail is remarkable and commendable.

I believe and hope you concur that the Congregational Church of Salisbury has put forth a plan that preserves this historic building in a manner that respects its historic integrity and its prominent place in the landscape of downtown Salisbury.

Respectfully,

Sharon B. Hamilton

To the Salisbury Historic District Commission:

As a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church's Board of Trustee and our Green Team, I am writing in support of our two current applications before the SHDC: one for a new roof, and another one for solar panels to go on it.

I wish to address the impact of not starting the project in August. During the course of our hearing on July 6th, it became apparent that some members of the SHDC are not aware of the significant timing value in their decision process. Our consultant Mark Robbins carefully reviewed the 15 year contract which the Church entered into with Eversource last summer for significant financial incentive payments for switching to solar electricity. The contract payment schedule was based on the project commencement one year forward. Each month that we now go past August 1, 2021, we lose a month worth of incentive payments.

Our congregation is very aware of the historic value of our building, and we took great care in choosing the materials for the roof and solar panels. For over a year, our "Green Team" worked hard with our consulting experts to come up with a plan to reduce the building's energy consumption / carbon footprint which has been approved by Trustees and necessary funding set aside. The entire congregation is supportive and excited about how this project will help protect the church and the planet from the effects of climate change. It will serve as a beacon of our commitment to God's wish that we treat the earth as an entrusted treasure.

Each aspect of the plan is vital to the goal of being one of the first true Net Zero church buildings in Connecticut. But I wish to emphasize that without the solar panels, we cannot eliminate the aging oil fueled furnaces or convert to more energy efficient, cleaner air systems.

Naturally, we need a good roof to support the panels. Metal roofs on buildings are historically appropriate. The first known church to have a metal roof was built in the late 1700's. A metal roof is lighter, stronger and lasts twice as long as an asphalt roof which is made by an inferior carbon based technology. As the examples to be placed outside the Church will demonstrate, the color of the solar panels and the metal roof will match in such a way that the solar panels will be hardly noticeable from street level.

I hope the SHDC will view the approval of the two applications as enhancing the perpetuating value of the Church and the surrounding village of Salisbury.

Sincerely,

Kerry Noble Board of Trustees, Salisbury Congregational Church

170 Canaan Rd Salisbury , CT 06068 Cell 860 459 9828 Email Kerry.noble@me.com Malcolm M. Brown 87 Canaan Road 3B Salisbury, CT 06068

6/30/01

Town of Salisbury Historic District Commission P.O. Box 429 Salisbury, CT 06068

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to support the application of the Salisbury Congregational Church to add solar panels to its roof. The orientation of the church is such that its roof would be getting sunlight from morning until evening and therefore that sunlight can certainly be utilized and help save energy. There is no doubt but that the building is historic, having been erected in 1800 and it clearly reflects the architecture of that time.

Perhaps more to the point, however, is the fact several other churches in Connecticut of a similar age and architecture have successfully added solar panels to their roofs with no discernible effect on the external appearance of the church.

My wife and I lived in an Historic District in Sharon for 47 years and certainly recognize the advantage of knowing that when you wake up in the morning things in your vicinity will be unchanged. However, if you look at the examples of other churches which have carried out this conversion, I think that you can see that no harm is done.

Sincerely

Malcolm M. Brown

Anne G. Williams 29 Hooperfields Dr. Sharon, CT

annegw200@yahoo.com

H: 860-364-2260; C: 860-248-1948

Ms. Georgia Petry, Administrator Salisbury Historic District Commission 27 Main Street Salisbury, CT 06068

July 12, 2021

Dear Ms. Petry, Chairperson Mason and Members of the Commission;

I am writing to express my support for the applications submitted 6/21/2021 by the Salisbury Congregational Church for the standing seam metal roof and the 40kW solar array, and encourage a positive decision on both applications from the Salisbury Historic District Commission.

As a church member, Trustee, and Chair of the church's House Committee (responsible for buildings and grounds), I and my fellow members have carefully considered the options for roofing materials, solar panels, and the impact of both aspects on Salisbury's townscape.

You've received other letters outlining the environmental benefits and historic resonance of metal roofing; the choice of Dark Bronze echoing the patinaed copper steeple dome and brass whale weathervane; the positive environmental and financial impacts from rapid approval, and the interrelated nature of our two applications toward implementing our goal of net-zero carbon emissions.

Almost exactly 62 years ago, on July 8, 1959, the church congregation approved a new building- known today to Salisbury residents and visitors as the Parish Hall. The church congregation approved "this significant milestone...in recognition of its obligation to youth." The design of the Parish Hall, like today's metal roof and solar array, respected the past, and made a bold commitment to the future.

The Commission has a similar opportunity in 2021 to recognize our collective obligation to today's youth- the obligation for each of us to do our part to leave our young people with a livable planet. I urge you to approve this next significant milestone embodied in our applications. By doing so, you will inspire young people who, gazing up at an 1800's structure adorned with a whale weathervane <u>and</u> solar panels, will appreciate history, and thank you for your decision to embrace the future, for their sake.

Regards,

Anne. G Williams

Aug G. Williams

From: Theresa Carroll <tcarroll.mt@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:18 AM **To:** Town Hall <townhall@salisburyct.us>

Subject: Letter for public meeting Solar panels, metal roof,

Dear Friends,

I moved to Salisbury in the late 1980's. The decision was based on many factors. Salisbury is a lovely old fashion-y New England small town. I saw the Town Hall, and I lived here a year or so before I discovered that it is not the original building (which burned down in 1985). There is the still grand former Ragamont Inn building, and across Route 44 is the lovely White Hart Inn. From the porch of the Inn one can see St John's Episcopal Church, (built in 1800) and the Salisbury Congregational Church (built in 1800). Much of Salisbury's appeal is the integration of the natural setting that surrounds us; the Lake, Mount Riga, the forests and the old trees in yards along Main St.

I say all this to note that I too am a lover of historic buildings that are much of the charm of our beloved Salisbury. But part of what we must protect if we are to preserve our town and way of life, is the environment that sustains us.

Climate change threatens to disrupt our very way of life through changed rainfall and agricultural patterns, fewer animals and plants adapt to where they are growing, increased migration of people seeking stable food sources, increased aggression over resources once taken for granted and all the economic disruption that could come from rising seas.

What does all this have to do with Salisbury you might ask? The Salisbury Congregational Church, after more than a year of study and deliberation, has decided to do its part for climate change by making our historic building make history. We have put forward a proposal to put solar panels on our roof and make our church what we believe to be the first Net Zero emission church in the state of Connecticut. Salisbury Congregational is an iconic building and one of the original institutions of the Town; as such, our congregation is VERY sensitive to the historic significance of the building.

New England Yankees hate change, but love to innovate and love a bargain. This investment will allow the congregation to renew its building, and save money in the process. It requires a significant up-front investment by the congregation, but will pay for itself in fewer than 10 years.

The project would cover most of the South roof of the church with low-reflectivity solar panels. Since the panels need to be attached to the roof, and our roof was scheduled to be replaced in 3 years, we included, as part of the project, an installation of a standing seam metal roof with a 50 year life. Metal roofs trace their history to before the United States was independent. For example, the historic Christ Church in Philadelphia, considered one of the country's most beautiful historic churches, was constructed starting in 1727 and used a standing seam metal roof.

Our new roof, as part of the project, is under consideration by the Salisbury Historic Society. It would replace an asphalt shingle roof. We believe that the standing seam metal roof (similar to the Town Hall roof) is actually more in character with the historic nature of the building than asphalt shingles, which were first used extensively in the US starting around 1910.

Yikes! Solar panels, you say? All New Age? In the middle of old New England Salisbury? The committee considered very carefully the impact of the visual impact of the panels. The panels will be mounted close to the roof surface, and the color of the metal roof and the low- reflective panels can be a near match. While the panels will be minimally visible on the drive up Main Street, we believe that the installation addresses our congregation's historical commitment to community and social values in helping to preserve God's handiwork by reducing our impact on the environment.

Sincerely, Theresa Carroll 8 Meadow St Lakeville, Ct 06039 860-671-9672 From: Betsy Beck < betsyfbeck@gmail.com >

Subject: The Congregational Church's COAs

Date: June 28, 2021 at 2:10:05 PM EDT

To: historicsalisburyct@gmail.com

Dear Salisbury Historic District Commission,

Knowing and respecting how long it takes to be considered a long-term resident of a town, I may be presumptuous in claiming some part of that status. My husband, Mike, and I met in 1975 while working at Camp Sloane, where we continued to work for decades. Our summer jobs turned into full-time employment in 1983 when I took a job at Hotchkiss and Mike began to develop a year-round program for Sloane. Shortly after we arrived, I began attending church at the Congregational Church, and over the years have been very involved in the life of that community.

Currently in my role as Moderator of the Church, I am involved with a wide range of programs and discussions. Our church has been taking steps toward becoming as "green" as we can in ways both big and small. Surely, the largest effort is the one that sits before you now - the plan to make the church building completely carbon neutral. We do this out of a commitment to taking care of God's creation and being good stewards of our resources; we do this out of the understanding of the precarious place our world finds itself with regard to an ever-changing climate.

For about two years now, a dedicated group from our church has been in extensive discussions about options for upgrades and changes that would reduce our footprint on the planet. They have thoughtfully considered many options and have been mindful of the impact on our church - both the building and the people - and on the town.

While many of the changes are internal, the option that is of greatest concern to you all is the exterior of the building, specifically the roof and the solar panels. In an effort to be as unobtrusive as possible while still moving us toward our ultimate goal, we have worked closely with an extremely experienced consultant, Mark Robbins, who has overseen comparable projects around the state. Among many choices, the color of the roof and style of the panels were chosen deliberately to minimize the visual impact of the project and preserve the integrity of the historic structure of our building.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that you will approve both COAs - for the roof and for the panels - and support our efforts to take the best possible care of our resources.

With appreciation for you sharing this letter with the members of the commission, I remain, gratefully,

Betsy Fuchs Beck Moderator Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC Louise F. Brown

87 Canaan Road 3B

Salisbury CT 06068

To: The Salisbury Historic District Commission

Re: Applications of the Salisbury Congregational Church

Date: June 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Salisbury Congregational Church's pending applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. I have visited Salisbury my whole life, been a property owner since the late sixties, and recently became a full time resident (after forty-seven years resident in the Sharon historic district.) My office is located right next to the church. The purposes of an historic district are important to me.

The thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the Applications are impressive. The goal of faithful stewardship of the church's tangible and intangible assets is worthy. The successful accomplishment of this project will certainly be of benefit to the church and, indeed, will benefit the entire town both as an example and as a facility which currently is shared with the town for meetings and the like and could serve as a place of refuge in the event of need.

The photographs of similar projects on other large buildings and the samples exhibited at the town hall confirm that the result will be a handsome building and one which looks forward while respecting the past.

Sincerely yours,

Louise F. Brown