I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Chesanow called the meeting to order 9:05 AM, on the bus.

II. ROLL CALL
The roll was called.
Commission Members Present:
Jeanné Chesanow, Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Pratt Fox, Joseph Datillo, and Alternate John Torello

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
It was determined that a quorum was present.

IV. BUSINESS - Barn Survey
Elizabeth Pratt Fox, the Commission’s clerk and coordinator of this barn project, summarized the purpose of the bus trip – to survey barns in Cheshire, as part of a statewide program (sponsored by the CT Trust for Historic Preservation) to photograph and describe all the barns—old and new -- in the state which are visible from a public way. She handed out the forms, one for each barn where the street address was to be filled in and on which boxes were to be checked: English Barn or New England Barn, siding materials, roofing materials, other details such as cupolas.

As part of this statewide survey, 81 barns in Cheshire have already been photographed and described on this same form. The secondary purpose of the bus tour was to correct any misinformation on the barns already surveyed and to find additional barns not on the CT Trust list.

Materials on hand in the bus: data from photographed barns, Assessor Mario Pangrasso’s recent printout of all the barns in Cheshire on the Assessor’s List., Landmarks of Old Cheshire book, new forms to fill out.

John Torello and Jeanne Chesanow were charged with photographing the barns and other items of interest (stone walls, gate posts, vintage farm machinery). John was using film and Jeanne a digital camera. Eric and Joe were to fill out the forms for each barn. Approximately 10 forms were completed and handed in to Elizabeth at the end of the trip.

The Route of this first trip was: Fenn Road, Harriison Road, Wallingford Road, and Yalesville Road. On Harrison Road and Yalesville Road we met barn owners who were out in their yards. Drew Ratchelous on 42 Harrison Road invited us to tour the inside of his barn. Outside in the stone wall was imbedded a
large piece of basalt with writing on, attributed in Amos Harrison. The writing, though faint, seemed to say AMOS 1876. On the right side of the stone was the imprint of a chain with a number of links running vertically up the stone’s surface. The story was that as the stone was being moved into place, the chain around it pressed so tightly that it left a mark. Many photos were taken here including some of the barn interior showing the timber joins.

A barn on Wallingford Road had an interesting cupola with louvers cut in a distinctive pattern.

On Yalesville Road, a cluster of barns on the west side were observed. The owner of the Wildflower Shop, which she runs out of an old shed, came out to see if we wanted to buy any of her handmade wreaths. Her husband and his family before him have owned this property for many, many years. The tight cluster of very old barns was dark and decaying. It will soon come down. The weathered to gray English barn near Route 68, is being repaired with hopes of saving it. We photographed that from all sides and included some photos of farm equipment inside and outside of the barn.

The 150+ digital photos, taken by Mrs. Chesanow, will be shown on her laptop at the HDC’s next meeting, November 15, 2010. During that showing, the titles will be added according to instructions of the CT Trust. There will be discussion of the barns as they are shown on the monitor, the descriptions will be checked, and details added for HDC records. It is hoped that Mr. Torello’s prints will be available at that same meeting.

Several barns that were not on the CT Trust list were also photographed and will be added to that list. Additionally there were also a couple of newer barns which were photographed and described. A couple of barns seen last year were gone.

The HDC will discuss the possibility of another bus trip and/or assigning areas to Commission members for continuing study of Cheshire barns.

V. ADJOURNMENT
The special meeting was adjourned at 12 noon, a few minutes before the bus arrived back at the Town Hall.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Chesanow, Chairperson
Cheshire Historic District Commission