



PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

Subject: **Bylaw 1922 Redesignation – Hamlet Residential to Hamlet Commercial**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Prepared By: Brandy Hay-Morgan, Planning & Development Officer

Presented By: Brandy Hay-Morgan

Link to Strat Plan: Pursuing Focused Growth

Background/ Proposal	<p>Torrington Tourism Action Society (also known as Torrington Gopher Hole Museum) is the current landowner of NE 34-32-26 W4, Plan 6820 GY, Blk 8, Lot 8, and is applying to redesignate the entire parcel (392.48 square meters) on which the museum sits. The property's current zoning is Hamlet Residential; to facilitate a new building, the parcel must be redesignated to Hamlet Commercial for a museum (section 95, u).</p>
Discussion/ Options/ Benefits/ Disadvantages:	<p>The proposed site is 202 First Street South in the Hamlet of Torrington, accessed via First Street South. The applicants are working towards securing a new building for the World-Famous Gopher Hole Museum, but due to the parcel's current zoning (HR), a new building cannot be permitted for this use.</p> <p>The purpose of the Hamlet Commercial District is to provide a range of commercial uses within the hamlets that cater to the needs of residents and the surrounding area.</p> <p>The applicants want to align the current use of the land with what is happening. They are trying to secure a new building for the World-Famous Gopher Hole Museum and require the land to be redesignated to Hamlet Commercial District to allow for this use.</p> <p>The Planning and Development Department intends to complete a blanket rezoning of the properties in our hamlets when the Land Use Bylaw 1808 is reviewed to ensure zoning aligns with current uses. However, due to the applicant's timeline, the redesignation must be addressed before our Land Use Bylaw review begins.</p>