

## OFFICERS

Rona Johnston  
*President*  
Beth Miller  
*Vice President*  
Oliver Gaffney  
*Secretary*  
Abigail Roth  
*Assistant Secretary*  
Glenn Trunkfield  
*Treasurer*  
C. Michael Tucker  
*Assistant Treasurer*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenya Adams-Martin  
Betsy Grauer  
Charlotte Rea  
Dorthula Green  
Channing Harris  
Alex Meier-Tomkins  
Jill Martin  
W. Frank Mitchell  
Jeremy Mudd  
Chandni Vasisht  
Michael Waters

## ADVISORS

Katherine Bennett  
Karyn Gilvarg  
Melanie Ginter  
John Herzan  
Katharine Mace Learned  
Preston Maynard  
Marianne Mazan  
Christopher Wigren

## STAFF

Sarah Tisdale  
*Director of Historic Preservation*  
Denise Darnell  
*Administrative Coordinator*

July 17, 2025

Committee on City Services and Environmental Policy  
New Haven Board of Alders

Re: New Haven Green Improvements

Dear Alder Festa,

The New Haven Preservation Trust is grateful for the opportunity to speak to the Committee on City Services and Environmental Policy as it votes to authorize the Mayor to accept funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for Safety Improvements around the New Haven Green.

The New Haven Green has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark, and the Trust is eager that the historic character of this public space be respected. We are therefore pleased to see that the language of the executive summary for this proposal notes the "historic" significance of the space and that changes will be "in character."

The Trust supports the use of this proposed funding to somewhat restrict vehicular traffic and encourage more pedestrian and bicycle use, particularly in relation to Temple Street, which with its three churches is the symbolic and literal heart of the Green and the City. In reference to these changes, we encourage the City to ensure no damage is done to the character-defining and iconic elms and other trees of the Green (many of which were gifts from the Garden Club of New Haven).

The New Haven Preservation Trust looks forward to continuing to work with the City on plans for this vital space at the heart of New Haven and reminds the Committee that the Trust has expertise and can be used as a resource concerning historic properties.

We encourage the Committee to approve the funding with the stipulation that the public conversation about the specifics of changes to Temple Street continue.

Sincerely,



Rona Johnston  
Board President