

September 16, 2025

Mr. Gary Goeschel
Director of Planning
108 Pennsylvania Ave
Niantic, CT 06357-1510

Re: Proposed Subdivision, 49 Brainerd Road, East Lyme

Dear Mr. Goeschel:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) reviewed the project plans for the proposed subdivision at 49 Brainerd Rd in the town of East Lyme. The planned project includes subdivision of a single 1.6-acre building lot on this 52.8-acre property. There is also an existing single-family dwelling on the property at 49 Brainerd Road, as well as a leased area with an access road and cell tower that was surveyed for archaeological resources in 2009 (CHPC #1803).

OSA examined state archaeological site files and reports, USDA soil maps, historic maps, LiDAR imagery, and aerial photographs to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. The property is bordered to the west by Niles Creek and to the east by a railroad line and the Patagansett River. Soils on the property consist of a mix of Agawam fine sandy loam and stony Charlton-Chatfield complex soils. Aerial photos show the part of the property that is slated for subdivision was cleared through much of the 20th century; much of the remaining acreage is wooded.

The archaeological survey of the cell tower and access road project area did not encounter any historic-period or pre-contact Native American artifacts or cultural features. However, given the topography, presence of well-drained soils, and location between the brook and the river, the overall property is considered potentially sensitive for archaeological resources. OSA recommends that a limited Phase IB archaeological reconnaissance survey of any areas slated for ground disturbance be completed prior to the start of development activities. The survey should be conducted in accordance with State Historic Preservation Office standards summarized in the state's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut Archaeological Resources*, (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/Environmental-Review-Primer-for-CTs-Archaeological-Resources.pdf?la=en>). A list of Cultural Resource Management firms trained to undertake such a survey is included with this letter. This survey would consist of an historical and environmental background review of the property to better document its past use and soil conditions, and a visual inspection of the property to assess the potential for intact soils and archaeological deposits, and the excavation of a limited number of archaeological shovel test pits to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the project area. If artifacts or cultural features suggesting the potential presence of a significant archaeological resource are encountered, some additional testing may be required to establish the site's National Register eligibility. Should the finds be determined to be insignificant, no further work would be required. The results of the survey can be presented to my office as a condensed memorandum report for review.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at sarah.sportman@uconn.edu or (860) 617-6884.

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Sincerely,



Sarah P. Sportman, Ph.D.
Office of State Archaeology

Cc: John Paul Mereen, LLS; Cory Atkinson, CTSHPO