

## 05-20-2020 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #15: Update on Historic District Design Guidelines**

#### **Council Question:**

From the emails received over the past couple of months, what has been the feedback from HDC members to the draft revisions so far?

#### **Staff Response:**

*There are three (3) members of the Historic District Commission (HDC) that are currently serving on the Design Guidelines Rewrite project committee. The members have been mostly supportive of the consultant's proposed revisions to the Design Guidelines. There was interest in the proposed character studies to help the HDC better define the special character of each of the three local historic districts and identify character-defining features. Members also expressed interest in the Design Guidelines better articulating the owner's responsibility to obtain Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) to reduce the number of after-the fact COAs.*

*During our in-person meeting in February, we had spoken about the importance of visual aids such as photographs and illustrations to help applicants better understand the intent of specific guidelines. During the last three rounds of individual reviews, the HDC members have asked for greater clarity on items such as the use of contemporary materials and best preservation practices for the treatment of historic materials. There was also interest in addressing specific site features such as street furnishings, mechanical equipment, paths and walkways, deer fences, gazebos, and public art. One commissioner was very interested in ensuring that the Design Guidelines emphasized the statutes and ordinances that supported the legality of the HDC's work.*

*The HDC as a whole has been interested in public participation and input on this project. Many are eager for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to extend the deadline for the project to enable greater public engagement once in-person meetings can occur.*