

The Historic District Commission of the Town of Greenwich

Welcome from the Commissioners

What is the Historic District Commission (HDC) ?

The HDC is a Town commission established by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) in 1975. The General Statutes of Connecticut, Chapter 97A, Sec. 7-147a-y, enables the creation of historic districts and properties and historic district commissions in the state.

What is its function ?

The Commission:

- approves or disapproves changes to structures and landscapes within the three local historic districts and the two local historic properties; (see "Preserving Greenwich - Properties").
- promotes the creation of historic districts and historic properties and acts as the study committee for such designations
- provides the Planning & Zoning Commission with advisory opinions on applications for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and other historic properties, (see "Preserving Greenwich - Properties").
- provides advisory opinions on Historic Overlay (HO), Historic Residential Overlay properties, and façade easements, designations used by the Planning & Zoning Commission to encourage retention of notable structures by providing economic incentives through the easing of zoning restrictions in return for permanent deed restrictions including mandatory review of any changes to historic assets with these designations.
- reviews demolition applications for pre-1940 buildings and places stays of demolition as appropriate.
- promotes the concept of preserving historic structures and landscapes in the town

Who are the Commissioners ?

They are residents of the town nominated by the Selectmen and appointed by the RTM. Please see page 2 for a current list.

When does the Commission meet ?

The Commission meets monthly, except in August. Please see page 3 for the meeting schedule.

When coming before the HDC, an applicant will be applying for one of the following:

- 1) a Certificate of Appropriateness for a property in a Local Historic District or a Local Historic Property,
- 2) an Advisory Opinion on a discussion item as requested by the Planning and Zoning Commission,

PLEASE SEE APPLICATION FORMS ON PAGES 4 and 5.

How does the HDC differ from the Historical Society ?

The Greenwich Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization with staff, a house museum, the Bush-Holley House, and extensive archives that chronicle the lives of citizens and the development of the town. The HDC is a Town agency composed of volunteers. The HDC often consults with staff of the Society for historical information.

PRESERVING GREENWICH, a guide that follows, was published by the Society, (formerly known as the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich) and provides a valuable overview of preservation in town.