

HDC training with Mary Dunne, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

“Administration of Municipal Historic Districts”

October 18, 2022

Attendees:

- Donna Hall
- Laura Brown
- Esther Rose-Wilen
- Mary Dunne
- Karen Jenkins
- Trina Learned
- Thomas Kimberly
- Jordan Sorensen
- Sarah Tisdale
- David Valentino
- Susan Godshall
- Douglas Royalty
- Richard Munday
- Adam J. Marchand
- Edwin Martinez

Special meeting outline/notes (referring to PowerPoint presentation)

- Outlined in general statues 7-147
- Overview of Commission/member requirements
- Responsibilities:
 - Rules of procedure, following Secretary of Interior Standards (SOIS)
 - Annual report on membership/activities to SHPO
 - Establish design review guidelines
 - Blanket approvals (do not require Certificate of Appropriateness (COA))
- COA required for (affordability not in purview):
 - New construction (follow SOIS for design to make it compatible but not mimic historic)
 - Alterations
 - Demos
 - Size and visibility of parking
- Procedures
 - Noticing
 - Voting
 - Action Timeline
- Exemptions from review
 - Paint color, interiors, use of building, state owned properties, maintenance projects, correcting public safety violations, permits issued prior to Local Historic District establishment, property owned by non-profit higher education institutions
- Enforcement by town (zoning or building official)
 - Appeals by property owner within 15 days of decision
- Demolition delay
 - Notify SHPO, automatic 90-day delay to find alternative to demo
- Certified Local Government (CLG) program

- Benefits:
 - Education/training in Historic Preservation
 - Stronger preservation ethic in the community
 - Formal role in National Register of Historic Places nomination review process
 - Eligible for grant funding (one at a time)
 - Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant: up to \$20k
 - For education and awareness
 - CLG grants: up to \$30k
 - For designations, planning or pre-development studies, Historic Resources Inventories
- How to make Commission more inclusive?
 - Collaboration with groups to bring in new people of differing race, gender, age, etc.
 - Could apply for grants for this topic
- Recurring inquiries to SHPO
 - What constitutes public way, what is a structure, use of property, reviewing solar, substitute/synthetic materials, reconstruction of new features, archaeological considerations.
- City of New Haven is two years from updating comprehensive plan (focus will be on conservation, development, equity and resilience).