

# **Dartmouth Historical Commission - Preservation Goals**

**Approved by the Dartmouth Historical Commission Sept. 9, 2013**

The Dartmouth historical Commission (DHC) is responsible for the preservation, protection, interpretation, and development of the Town of Dartmouth's historical and archaeological assets and for historic preservation planning for the Town under Chapter 40, Section 8D of the Massachusetts General Laws and Section 3-13 of the Town's General By-Laws. The DHC is also responsible for public outreach, education, and advocacy concerning Dartmouth's significant historic resources.

The DHC conducts research for places of historic value, cooperates with the state archaeologist in conducting such researches or other surveys, and coordinates the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes. More than 500 properties have been surveyed and the findings put online. The Town's Demolition Review Bylaw is intended to help preserve the rich legacy of the community's built environment – significant structures that reflect distinctive features of the Town's cultural architectural, economic, political, and social history, and provide opportunities to explore all options before tearing down historic structures.

The DHC has developed these Preservation Goals to help ensure that the Town considers historic and cultural resource preservation in future planning and development efforts. It identifies priorities for community preservation, helping to make the most meaningful use of Community Preservation Act funds and other funding sources. Through the Preservation Goals, the Commission hopes to foster a greater interest in the Town's irreplaceable historic resources.

The DHC has established the following four priorities:

1. **Physical Preservation:** Protecting historic structures and landscapes as a means of discouraging and preventing the loss of important historic resources, and preserving those resources for the future;
2. **Documentation:** Completing, improving, maintaining, and increasing public access to the Town's inventory of historic resources;
3. **Regulation:** Monitoring procedures to protect and enhance historic resources; and
4. **Outreach and Advocacy:** Increasing the community's knowledge of and access to its historic resources.

The specific goals, a number of which fall under more than one of the priorities are:

## 1. Physical Preservation:

- Encourage and monitor the preservation of the Town's valuable historic resources, including the Akin House, Russells Mills School/Library, Apponegansett Meeting House, and Stone Barn Farm.
- Preserve the Smith Mills Library.
- When appropriate, send Demolition applications to the Dartmouth Housing Authority for possible use of buildings slated to be demolished.
- Set historic preservation funding priorities for the Town, including recommendations to the Community Preservation Committee, including encouraging organizations to apply for historical projects.

- Continue to certify that an applicant to CPC for a historic project is locally significant; review and endorse historical proposals; ensure that all work on historic resources comply with the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation; and assist in and support the development of required preservation restrictions for historical projects.
2. Documentation:
- Continue the Survey of Historic Properties in Dartmouth as recorded on Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B's through 1900.
  - Update Form B's as needed.
  - Continue uploading the Historic Properties Survey on the DHC page of the Town's website.
  - Complete and link the Survey to the Town's Geographic Information System.
  - Scan and upload the original Form B's to the DHC website or provide an easily accessible link to the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS).
  - Continue to prepare National Register nominations, including one for the Russells Garrison site.
3. Regulation:
- Monitor the Demolition Review Bylaw process to ensure its appropriate implementation.
  - Be vigilant and thorough in reviewing all Demolition applications in determining historical significance.
  - Ensure that all eligible projects are submitted to the Commission.
4. Outreach and Advocacy:
- Increase DHC's educational function to the community and residents and advocate for the preservation and protection of the Town's historical resources, including: historic villages, commercial districts, buildings, objects, cemeteries; bridges, structures, farms, streetscapes, parks and landscapes, historic archaeological sites; and archival materials.
  - Continue implementation of the historic plaque program, publicize its availability, and certify the accuracy of data.
  - Publicize the Historic Properties Survey on the DHC page of the Town's website, and its use as a valuable resource.
  - Work with Dartmouth Schools on developing curriculum materials relating to the Russell Garrison site that are congruent with State curriculum frameworks.
  - Advise Select Board and Town boards and commissions on relevant historical matters, including the historical sections of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
  - Encourage eligible historic entities to apply for CPA funding.
  - Continue to develop, install, and maintain a system of signs and street furnishings to mark historic resources and village centers, and to encourage tourism.
  - Continue to mark cemeteries with identifying signs.