

PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Andover Preservation Commission endeavors to fulfill its mission to advise the Town concerning the preservation of its historic and archeological resources.

The Preservation Commission meets monthly to review applications from the Building Department in the following categories: Review of Plans for Historic Buildings, Demolition Delay of Historically Significant Buildings (Section 33) and Dimensional Special Permit-Historic Preservation (Section 7.9).

Applications submitted	2014	2015	2016
Review of Plans	33	38	39
Demolition Delay–HSB	5	6	14
Dimensional Special Permit-HP	6	1	3
Total Applications	47	40	56

REVIEW OF PLANS

Thirty-nine applications were formally reviewed for architectural compatibility. Fourteen additional applications required no formal review by the Commission.

DEMOLITION DELAY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS (SECTION 33)

The Commission reviewed demolition requests for fourteen historic properties. Thirteen structures were deemed historically significant and preferably preserved. Twelve buildings were razed. Demolition delay periods imposed on two structures in 2015 expired. One building, 33 Porter Road, will be moved to another site in 2017. A carriage barn, located at 47 Abbot Street remains in place when the property was sold.

DIMENSIONAL SPECIAL PERMIT/HISTORIC PRESERVATION (SECTION 7.9)

The Commission reviewed three applications and approved one for recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals for consideration of a Special Permit for Historic Preservation.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

On May 24, 2016, the 26th Annual Andover Preservation Awards recognized eight outstanding examples of historic preservation in Andover. Awards were given for exterior preservation and sympathetic additions.

PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

The Commission continues to develop goals and pursue opportunities to better preserve Andover's historic architectural resources. Preservation restrictions are a requirement for Dimensional Special Permit for Historic Preservation projects approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Commission encourages individual homeowners to consider preservation restrictions or easements for the protection of their historic properties. The Town now oversees thirteen preservation restrictions with one restriction in process.

TOWN MEETING

2016 Town Meeting denied Article 47 to fund improvements for the historically significant Ballardvale Engine House. The future of this historic Town building is now in question.

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY – www.mhl.org/historicpreservation/

The historic preservation website is a digitized version of the general survey of Andover's historic buildings from the late 17th century through the early 20th century. The website, hosted by Memorial Hall Library, allows researchers and Town departments online access to this information as well as maps of the Town's historic districts and links to other resources. As a work in progress it is modified when new information becomes available. Phase 2 of this project will broaden the survey of 20th century buildings. Use the *Contact Us* tab on the website for inquiries. Ninety-eight inquiries were answered in 2016.

HISTORIC RESTORATION INFORMATION

Acting in an advisory capacity, the Commission may recommend educational material to the public and advise owners on their historic restoration projects, including the selection of appropriate building materials and possible alternatives when cost is an issue. Such resources are intended to help historic building owners understand the value of historic preservation for themselves and the community. The Andover Historical Society archive and library at 97 Main Street has a large collection of historic building photographs and information available to researchers. Jim Batchelder, the Preservation Commission's Emeritus member, serves as the website's historian and research expert. All new information will be made available on the Historic Preservation website.

BALLARDVALE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Leo Greene and Joanna Reck are the Preservation Commission's representatives on the Ballardvale Historic District Commission. Joanna Reck serves as Chair. The Preservation Commission and the Ballardvale Historic District Commission work cooperatively on issues of mutual interest.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Craig Gibson is the Design Review Board Chairman and serves as the Preservation Commission's representative on that board. The Commission remains vitally interested in the historic buildings and character of Andover's downtown and Main Street corridor to Rte. 495.

HISTORIC MILL DISTRICT

Karen Herman, Preservation Commission Chair, was appointed a member of the Historic Mill District Committee, created in 2016. This Committee is charged with developing design review standards for the Historic Mill District approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting.