

Historical Notes

A Publication of the
Historic District Commission
Town of Mansfield, Connecticut

Did you know?

The initial effort to create a historic district in Mansfield began almost 60 years ago. The initiative was formally launched by the Town in October 1966.

Historic District Commission Members

Gail Bruhn, Chair
David Spencer, Vice-Chair
Eric Spencer
Matthew Hamill

**Commission Vacancies are
available for interested residents*

Introduction & History

Longtime residents of one of the three historic districts in Mansfield may recall receiving periodic communications from the Historic District Commission. Members of the Commission have always viewed these newsletters as an important way to encourage communication between owners of properties within the three historic districts and the Commission. With this newsletter, we are relaunching this method of communication with you. We intend to regularly keep you apprised of issues that have come before the Commission, significant projects in each of the historic districts, and actions that we have taken.

The Town of Mansfield created the Mansfield Center Historic District in 1969, and during the 1970s added the Spring Hill and Mansfield Hollow districts. The process of creating historic districts, and the powers that they are granted are prescribed by state law. Our website has more information about the relevant state law. ([Mansfield Historic District Commission](#)).

Mansfield's three historic districts are among 135 statewide. Historic districts are created based on a shared interest in preserving a community's history, culture, and character.

Historic District Commission Responsibilities

Since it has been some time since the Commission has been in communication with property owners in the three districts, we wanted to remind you of the jurisdiction of the Commission. Under state law, property owners **are required** to apply to the Commission for a certificate of appropriateness when proposing:

- Exterior alterations
- The use of different materials for alterations or repairs
- New buildings, additions or other structures

- Landscaping
- Demolition of existing building(s) or structure(s)
- Exterior advertising signage
- Fences, walls, driveways, new parking areas and exterior lighting
- Exterior AC/Heating and Solar

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 28, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 22, 2024

*HDC meets 4th Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall Except July, August & December

A certificate of appropriateness is **not required** for:

- Alterations not visible from a public street or right of way
- Routine maintenance such as carpentry repair which does not change materials, design or texture
- Painting
- Interior remodeling.

It is important to remember that the requirement to apply for a certificate of appropriateness from the Commission is separate and apart from any requirements that may exist to secure a building permit or zoning modification. Projects that require a certificate of appropriateness [Application for Certificate of Appropriateness](#) include those that do not require a building permit, for example, fencing.

Commission members recognize that you may be unsure whether you are required to apply for a certificate of appropriateness for a specific project you are contemplating. We encourage you to talk with Town of Mansfield staff (Jillene Woodmansee planzonedept@mansfieldct.org) who will then consult with HDC members. You can also submit your ideas informally to the Commission for a pre-application meeting so that members of the Commission may consider your project and advise you of the appropriate next steps.

Recent Projects

- Spring Hill Historic District – Column Replacement
- Mansfield Hollow Historic District – Window Replacement
- Mansfield Center Historic District – Roof replacement

Current Projects

The most ambitious project currently underway in the town’s historic districts is the restoration of the Mansfield General Store, located at 534 Storrs Road, near the intersection of Routes 195 and 89. Longtime residents will remember this building as home to Barrows & Burnham, the store owned and operated for many years by Anne Robb. Since then, the building has housed several different businesses on its first floor, and residents have lived on its second level. Last year, the property was purchased by a local resident with the goal of extensively restoring the building so that a business could operate on the main level, with two new apartments on the second level.



**Historic District
Commission
Town of Mansfield**
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268