

HAMILTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION



MEMORANDUM

To: Residents of the Hamilton Historic District

RE: Hamilton Historic District Commission (HHDC) Request for Amendment to the Town Bylaws Chapter XXXI-3

Date: 3 February, 2023

Dear Resident of the Hamilton Historic District,

The Hamilton Historic District Commission (HHDC) is proposing an amendment to the Town Bylaws to provide additional oversight of a number of permanent exterior site architectural features excluded in the adoption of the Historic District By-law in 1972.

The HHDC requests this amendment for the following reasons:

1. Some of the currently exempted items (walls, fences, historic markers) are of historic and/or visual importance to the District. The removal or alteration of such features could be detrimental to the character of the District. Providing the HHDC with review authority for these will assure protection of these items.
2. Hamilton excludes review items in the Historic District that are included in other towns on the North Shore and other towns of similar size in Massachusetts.
3. Providing the HHDC review of these items will remove areas of vagueness for residents during the review process for demolition, new construction or renovation work done within the Historic District.
4. Since demolition or new construction of items within these categories will have either a permanent or long-lasting visual impact on the Historic District, oversight of these will provide a greater level of protection to the residents of the District and the Town as a whole for preserving the character of the area.
5. The proposed amended wording for XXXI-3 would be as follows: "The authority of the Commission shall extend to the review of any of the categories of buildings, structures, or external architectural features in the Historic District as set out in items one through eight of MGL Section 8a of Chapter 40C, as amended." These categories are listed as an addendum to this letter.

The HHDC is scheduling a public meeting on 15 February, 2023 so that we can hear your input about this proposed amendment and discuss any concerns and clarify what the proposed change to the Bylaw does and does not do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Clements".

Scott R. Clements

Chairman, Hamilton Historic District Commission