

Local Commissions and Preservation Planning:

A status report on Berkshire County's 35 Historical Commissions and
Historic District Commissions



Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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Introduction

As volunteer-staffed municipal bodies, local historical commissions and historic district commissions face a variety of challenges in fulfilling their mission to protect, preserve and promote the historic resources of their cities and towns. In order to determine the most necessary and effective types of support for these commissions, we undertook a survey of the Historical and Historic District Commissions in all 32 Berkshire County municipalities. Both the survey instrument and this report were produced by Robin Fordham, graduate student at the University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program, and Summer Intern in Historic Preservation at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

The survey collected information on the structure and responsibilities of each commission; current challenges and recent successes; participation and interest in targeted trainings; awareness of available historic preservation resources, including funding opportunities; and commission goals for the next five years. The survey also included open-ended questions regarding efforts to promote equity/representation, and the transition to remote-meeting prompted by COVID-19 restrictions.

Surveys were sent by email to the historical commissions and historic district commissions in 30 municipalities (Florida and Savoy do not have standing commissions). The surveys were directed to the chairs of the commission, or to a commission member when the chair was not available to respond.

The following report contains 1-3 page summaries for each Berkshire County municipality. Survey responses were compiled along with a review of the commission's webpage(s); data on demolition delay¹; Community Preservation Act participation;² historic property survey status,³ and local, state and national historic designations.⁴ A commission's current "status" was determined by evaluating both the commission's meeting frequency and current responsibilities (see next section for a more detailed explanation).

¹ Demolition delay bylaw information was obtained from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

² Community Preservation Act information was obtained from the CPA Coalition Databank (www.communitypreservation.org).

³ Historic property survey status was obtained from the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System - MACRIS (mhc-macris.net), and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

⁴ Local Historic District designations were obtained from the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System - MACRIS (mhc-macris.net); National Register designations were obtained from the National Register Database (www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm).

These summaries are intended as a useful tool to determine the capacity of a particular commission (e.g., a high-capacity commission meets often, has active and engaged members, a strong knowledge base, and defined and realistic goals, whereas a low-capacity commission may have trouble maintaining active membership, or need direction on their role as a commission) in order to target subsequent support, resources and/or technical assistance accordingly.

In addition, survey responses give an overall picture of challenges commissions generally face, and highlight the ways in which commissions would like to be supported, which can be highly dependent on the size and resources of their community. High-capacity commissions may need specific technical assistance related to grant writing or surveying historical resources to move established goals forward, while communities with smaller populations or commissions that are just getting started may need support in simply understanding their role and choosing appropriate long-term goals.

The information contained in this report is for general planning purposes only. Various sources were consulted to compile the information contained herein. Portions of this report are based on self-reported information obtained from a survey of commission chairs or members; this self-reported information has not necessarily been verified, and is subject to change over time. Consult with the appropriate municipality to confirm any specific information.

Data Analysis

Berkshire County's 32 municipalities have a total of 35 established commissions, comprising 30 historical commissions (HCs), 3 historic district commissions (HDCs), one combined commission (HC/HDC), and one town (Monterey) with no established commissions.⁵

Surveys were sent to a total of 32 commissions (28 HCs, 3 HDCs, and one HC/HDC). Two municipalities (Florida and Savoy) did not receive a survey, as their HCs were identified as inactive with no contact person available to respond.

General Commission Information

We received 27 survey responses (23 HCs, 3 HDCs, and one HC/HDC). Commissions described themselves as *very active*, *active*, *somewhat active*, or *inactive*. After a review of the commission's survey responses, including meeting frequency, current responsibilities, and general comments, for purposes of this report we assigned each community a status of *active*, *somewhat active*, *inactive*, or *unknown*.⁶

Of the 24 active commissions responding, there were four 3-member commissions, nine 5-member commissions, and nine 7-member commissions. Seven commissions had alternate members.

Meeting frequency ranged widely (*Figure 1*). Two commissions reported meeting twice a month. Six commissions meet regularly once a month (one noted additional meetings if necessary), with another five commissions meeting once a month but only during certain months of the year. One commission meets every other month, and one meets quarterly. Six commissions meet on an as needed basis, and the remaining three indicated an irregular meeting pattern.

⁵ Monterey is currently beginning the process of establishing a local historic district, and has formed a local historic district study committee.

⁶ **Active** commissions generally meet regularly and are actively engaged in preservation planning activities (e.g., historic resource surveys, National Register nominations, adopting or administering demolition delay, creating or updating preservation plans, review of certificates of appropriateness, and/or local historic district study). **Somewhat active** commissions generally meet less frequently and/or as needed, and have few or no activities related to preservation planning (e.g., they may be focusing on managing the town's historical archives and/or local museums, coordinating events related to city/town history, or developing/leading tours). **Inactive** commissions have been active in the past but are not currently meeting, or have been entirely disbanded. **No commission** indicates a community that has never established an official historical commission. **Unknown** indicates a community with an established commission which did not respond to the survey.

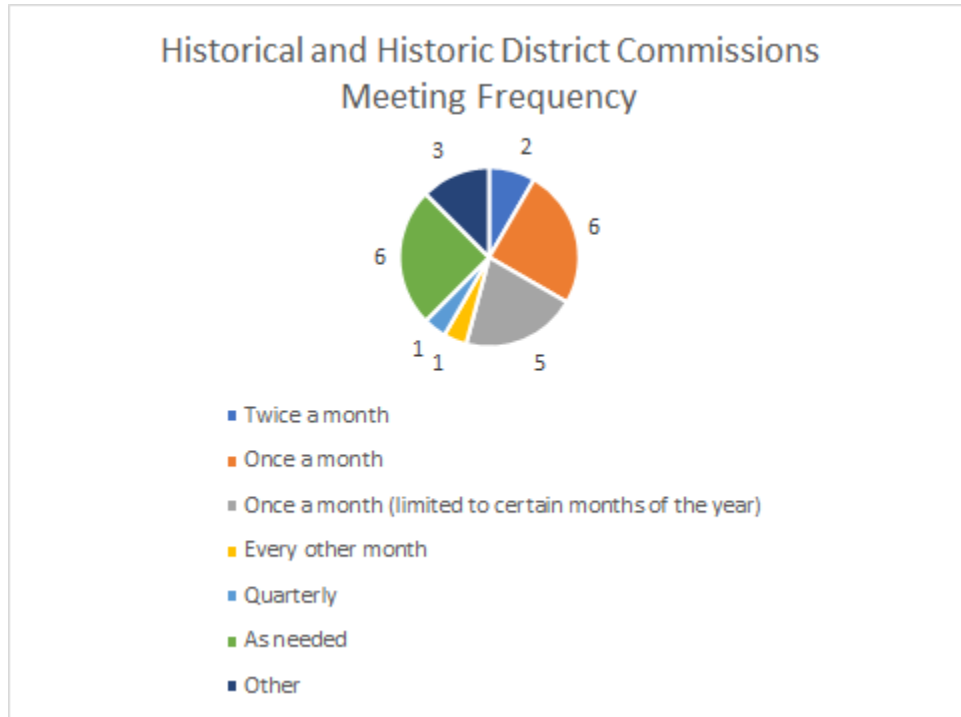


Figure 1 – All Commissions - Meeting Frequency

Ten commissions receive dedicated staff support for assistance with posting meeting announcements and agendas, facilitation, and typing up and posting meeting minutes. Twelve commissions receive no staff support, and two commissions receive limited support.

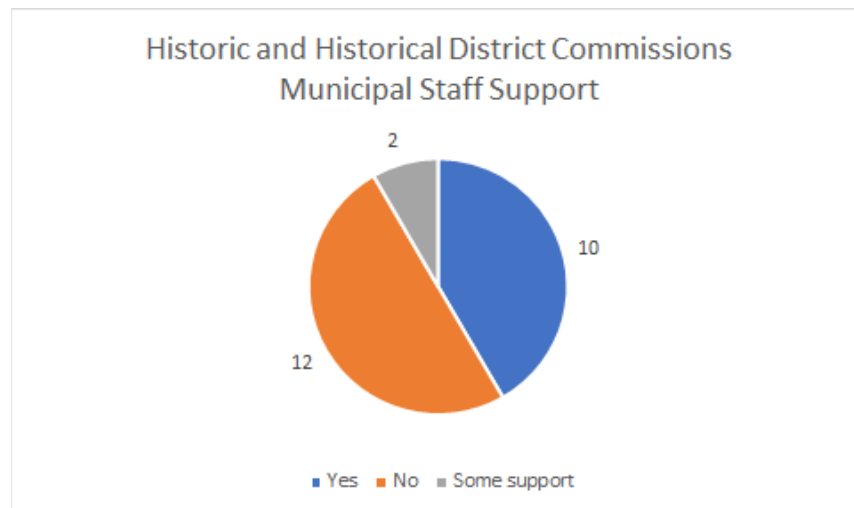


Figure 2 – All Commissions - Municipal Staff Support

Commission Projects/Responsibilities

Historical Commissions

Current projects and responsibilities varied across historical commissions. Figure 3, below, shows the number of active historical commissions (out of a total of 20) engaged in a certain task. Improving historic property inventory, education and outreach, and advising (both boards/commissions and Select Boards/City Councils) were the most common activities reported. About half of historical commissions review demolition requests and CPA proposals, and about a third identify working with MHC on NR nominations. A quarter of historical commissions are currently engaged in local historic district study.

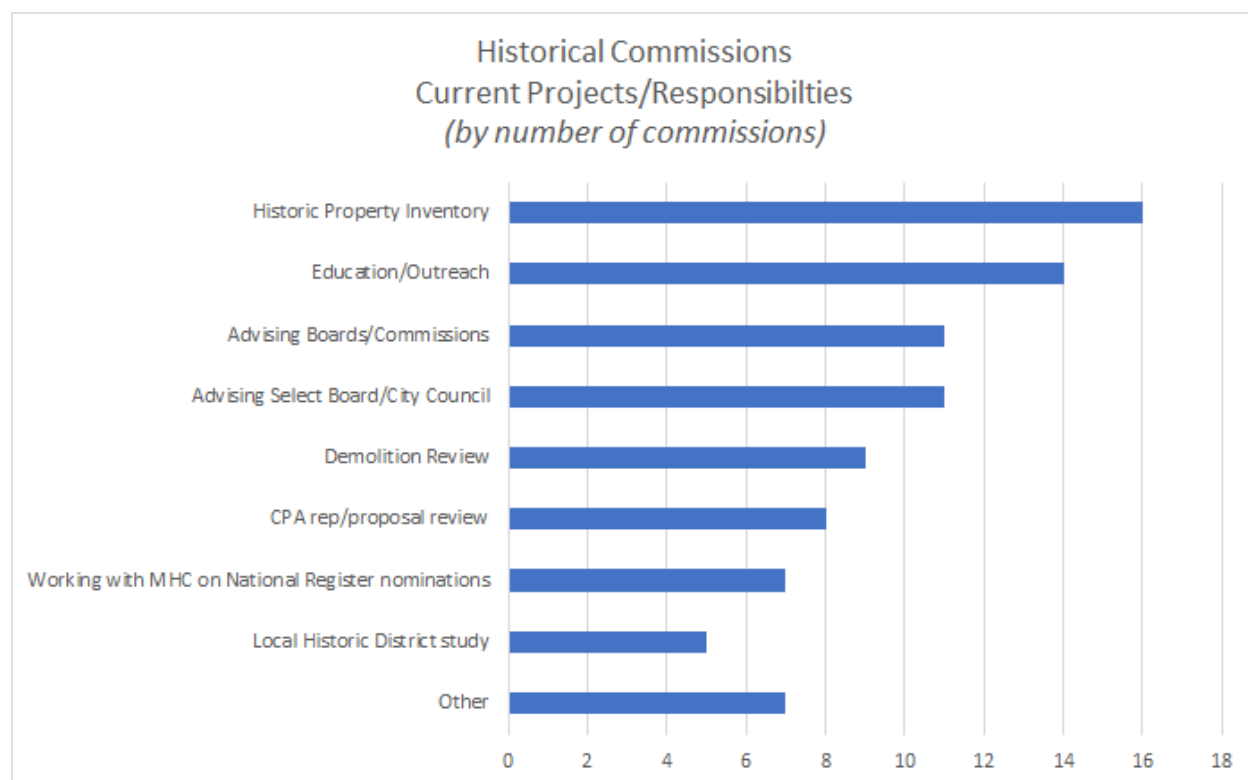


Figure 3 – Historical Commissions - Current Projects/Responsibilities Overall

Figure 4, below, shows the combined tasks for *each individual historical commission*, and provides a good visualization of the range in both number and type of responsibilities different municipalities adopt. The most tasked commission engages in nine different areas, while one commission has no regular responsibilities and only meets when specifically called by their select board.

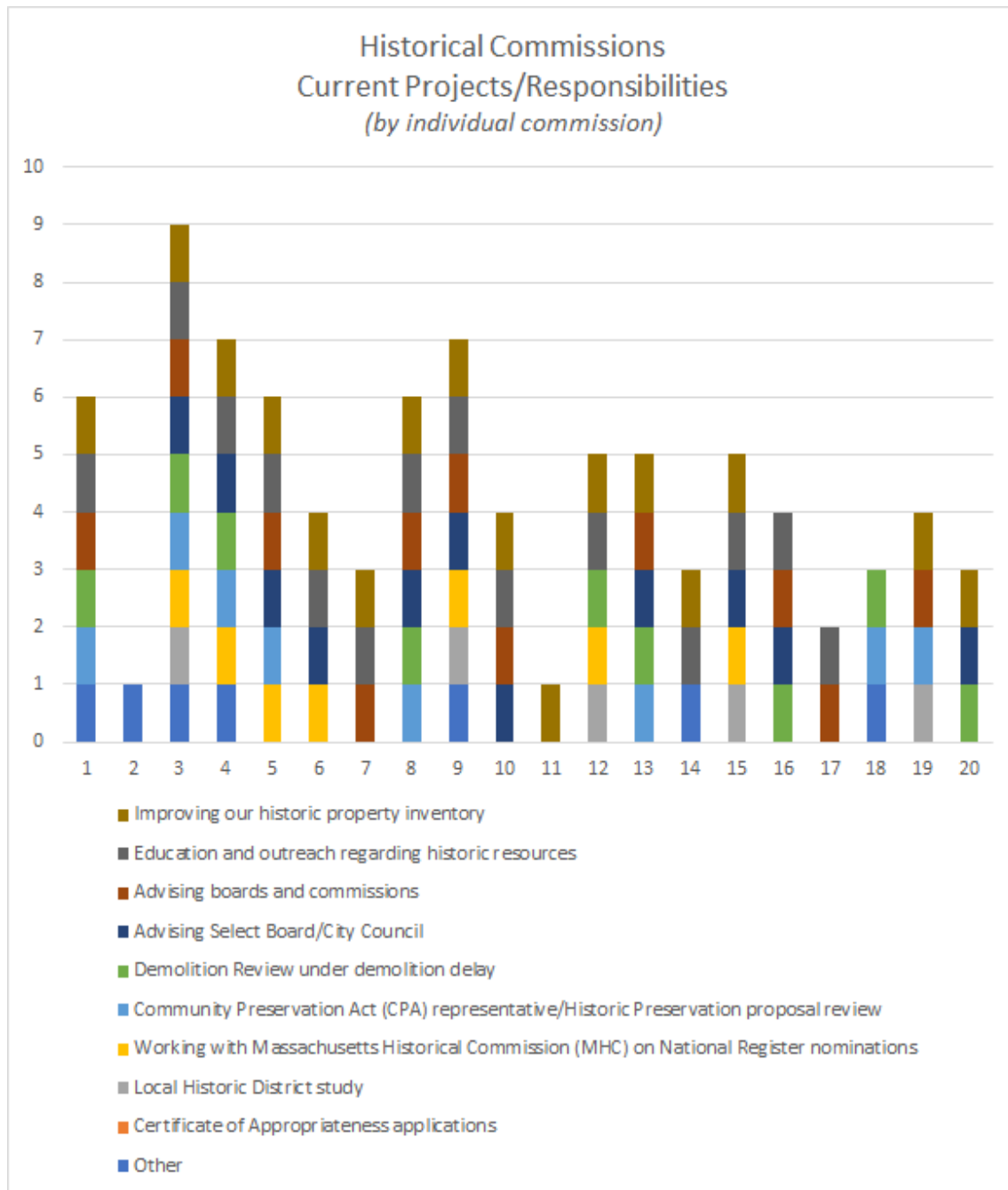


Figure 4 – Historical Commissions - Current Projects/Responsibilities of Each Commission

Historic District Commissions

All historic district commissions review certificates of appropriateness, but three of the four historic district commissions reported additional responsibilities. These included improving the historic property inventory, education and outreach, advising the Select

Board/City Council, CPA proposal review, working with MHC on NR nominations, and/or additional local historic district study.

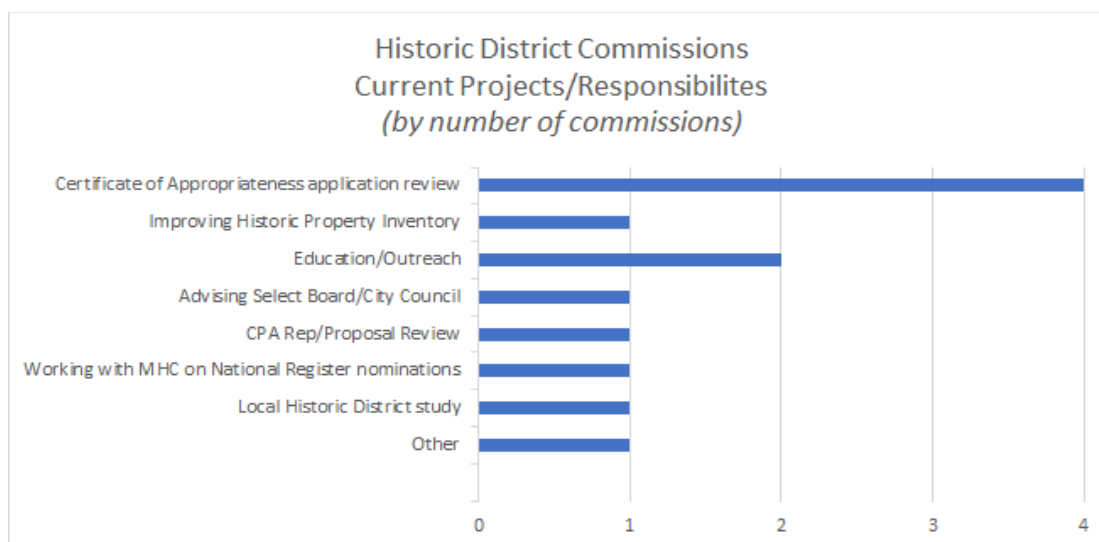


Figure 5 - Historic District Commissions - Current Projects/Responsibilities Overall

Again, the number and type of responsibilities varied by commission. One commission engaged in 5 different areas, while another noted under “other” the additional responsibility of “educating property owners of requirements under Local Historic District Commission bylaw.”

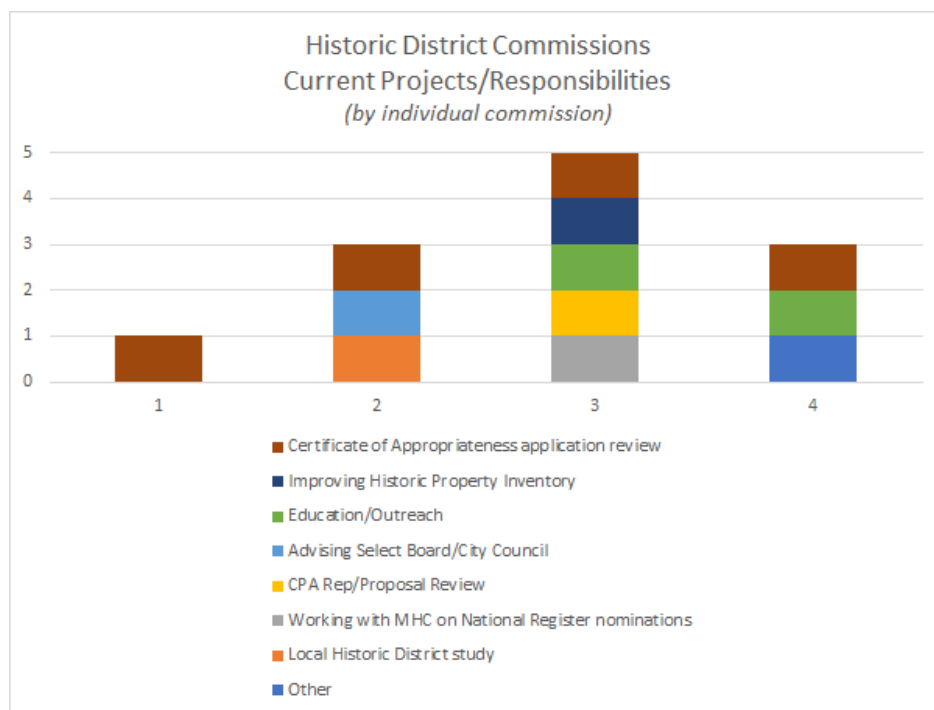


Figure 6 – Historic District Commissions - Current Projects/Responsibilities of Each Commission

Commission Challenges

Commissions face a variety of challenges in fulfilling their mission. Of the 24 active historical and historic district commissions that responded to the survey, half of commissions reported challenges with filling seats. Lack of support or interest from the community was reported by a third of commissions, while a quarter reported a lack of municipal support staff. Understanding the direction and goals of the commission and a lack of knowledge base on the commission were reported as challenges by five commissions each. Four commissions reported a lack of funding as a challenge, but only one noted commission members not agreeing as an issue. Among the “other” responses, three commissions reported challenges with support or inclusion from the town or town bodies, one noted a lack of computer/technology skills, one noted open meeting laws, and one reported an active historical society which supersedes the work of the commission.

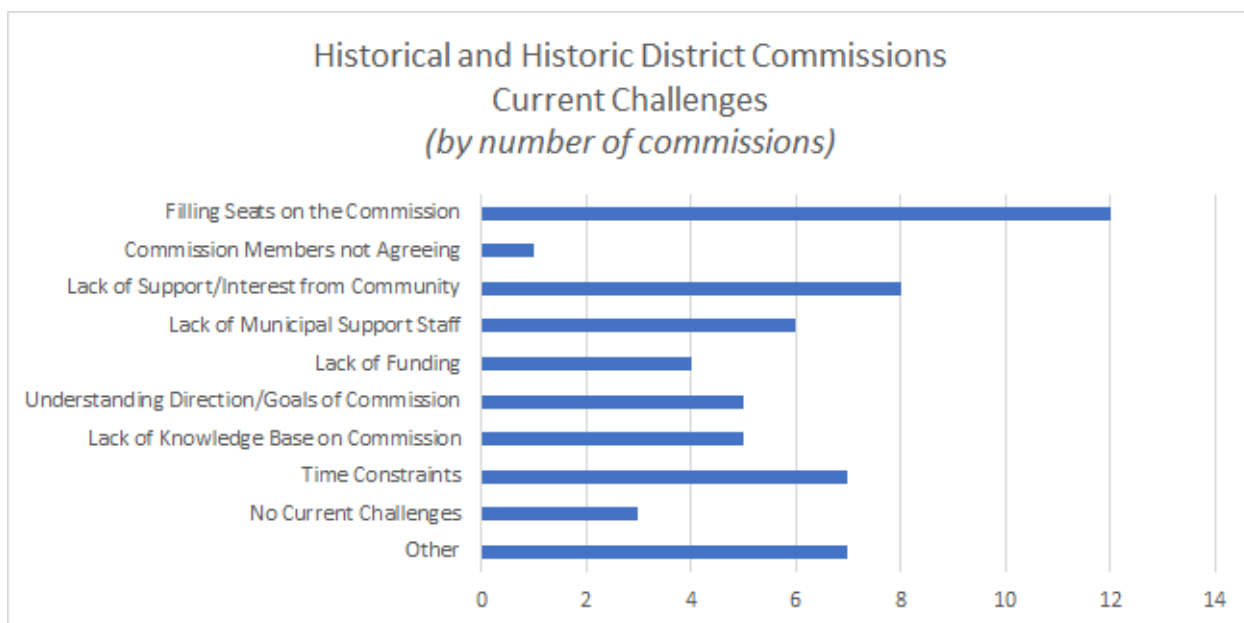


Figure 7 - All Commissions - Current Challenges

Commission Trainings

Trainings Attended

Of the 24 active historical and historic district commissions who responded, only half reported having attended a training, with the majority having attended either an MHC or a Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition training (Figures 8 and 9).

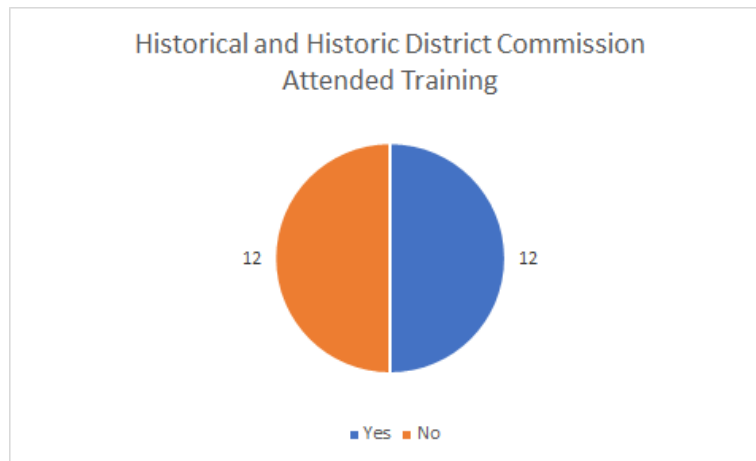


Figure 8 - All Commissions - Attended Training

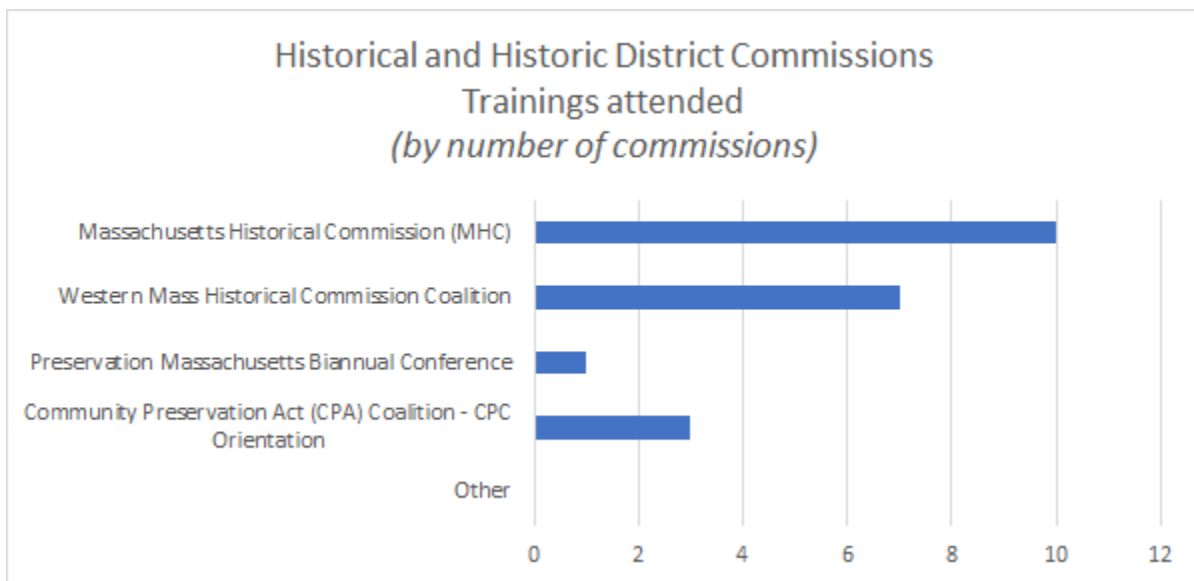


Figure 9 - All Commissions - Trainings Attended

Obstacles to Training

Twenty-one out of twenty-four commissions who responded to the survey indicated at least one obstacle to attending historic preservation planning trainings, even if their commissioners had previously attended trainings. The most common obstacle was a lack of awareness of available trainings, followed by a lack of time. Difficulty traveling to trainings was an obstacle for a third of commissions, while a little more than a third reported that not all commissioners were interested in attending. Three commissions reported funding as an obstacle, while three others reported no obstacles at all.

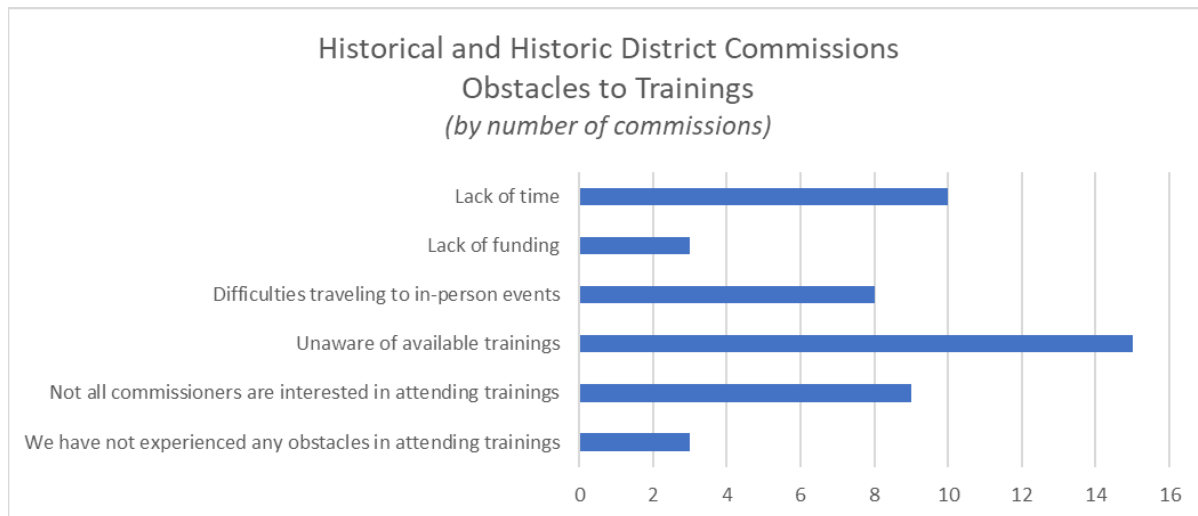


Figure 10 - All Commissions - Obstacles to Training

Trainings Desired

When presented with a list of options, all twenty-four active commissions indicated a desire for further training in at least one area (Figure 11). Nineteen commissions expressed interest in at least four areas of training; six commissions expressed interest in seven or more areas of training. Historic district commissions desired fewer areas of training (four maximum), but since training areas overlap between the two types of commission, no specific breakout of historical district commissions data is made here.

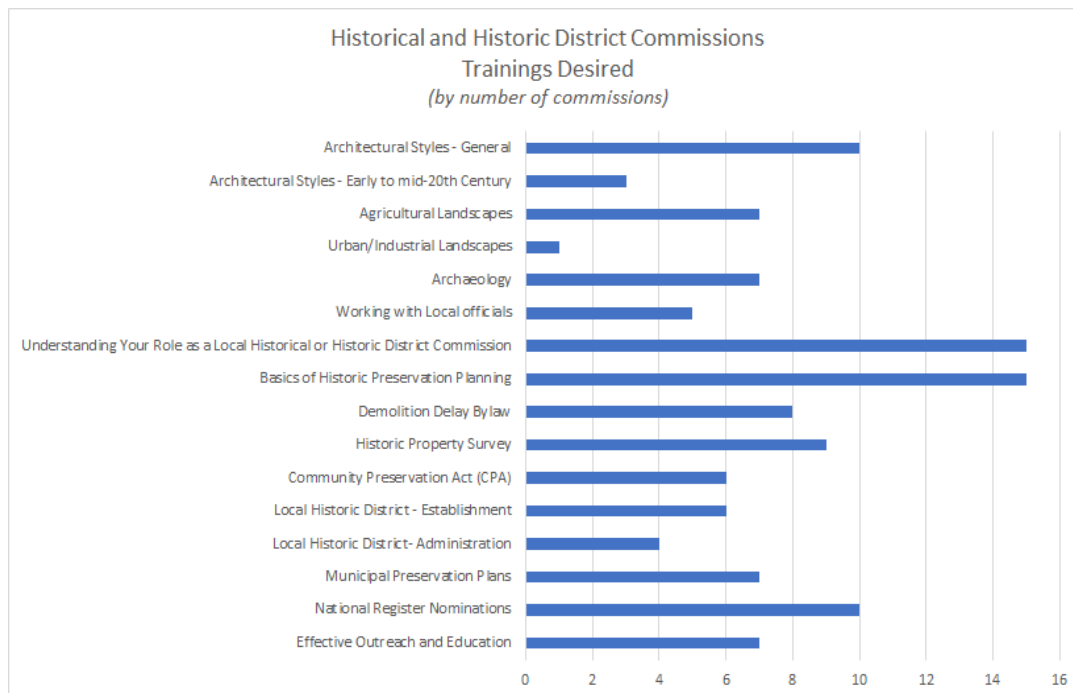


Figure 11 - All Commissions - Trainings Desired

A full two-thirds of commissions expressed a desire for training in either their role as a commissioner, or the basics of preservation. Interest in trainings in all areas (with the understandable exception of urban and industrial landscapes) is robust. This graph makes clear a desire among commissions to have a strong grasp of both their content and the administrative processes related to their work.

Resources and Support

To gauge commissions' awareness of historic preservation resources available digitally, survey respondents were asked to identify which resources they refer to or make use of in the course of their work (Figure 12).

A vast majority (80%) of commissions make use of MACRIS in the course of their work; two-thirds report using MACRIS Maps; and just under half (41%) refer to the NPS National Register database. However, less than half of commissions utilize MHC workshops. Further, only a fourth or less make use of the MHC Historic Preservation Listserv, Western MA Historical Coalition meetings, the Preservation Mass Circuit Rider program, or Historic Deerfield Workshops/Courses, all resources which would directly engage commissioners with others in the historic preservation field. One commission responded that they were “unsure” of resources available, while another noted in their general comments, “It seems that there are many resources that we are not aware of. Please distribute information on them.”

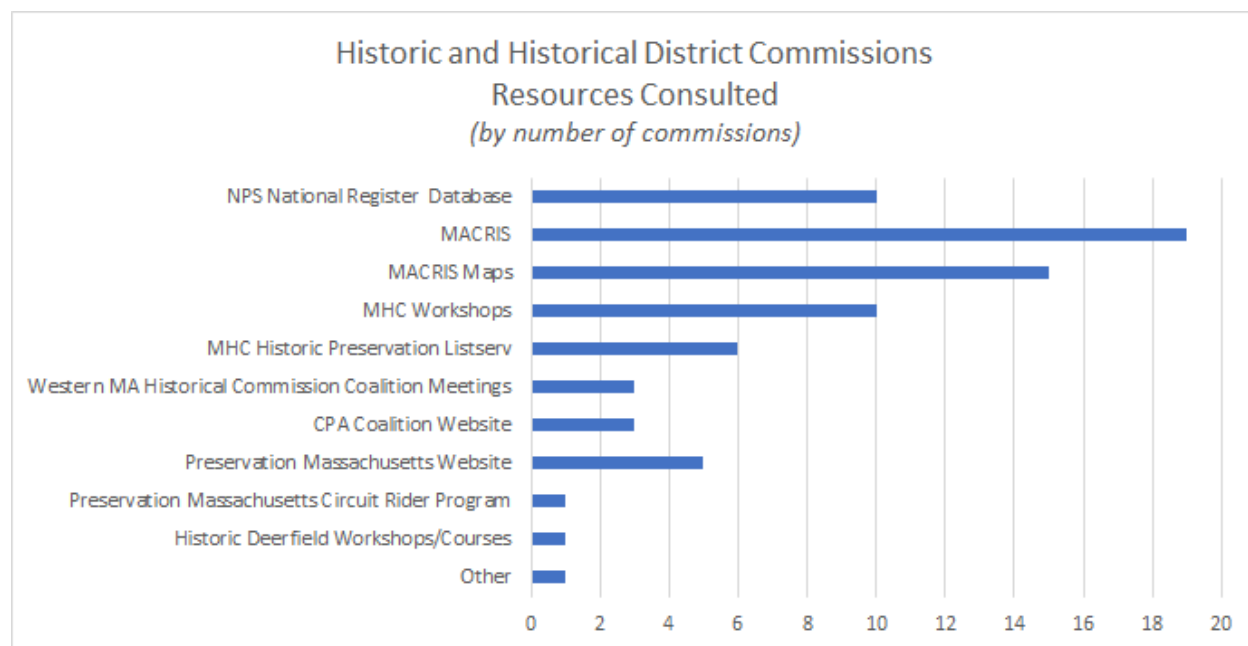


Figure 12 - All Commissions - Resources Consulted

Historic Preservation Funding

Commissions were asked two historic funding preservation questions to gauge awareness of both funding received within their municipality, and their knowledge of existing historic preservation funding resources.

Commissions were aware of funding through CPA, MHC Survey and Planning Grants, and the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. One commission noted their historical society had received a feasibility study grant, but was unsure of the source. Another noted but did not specify grants that were applied for but not received. A third commented, “need to receive info on these!”

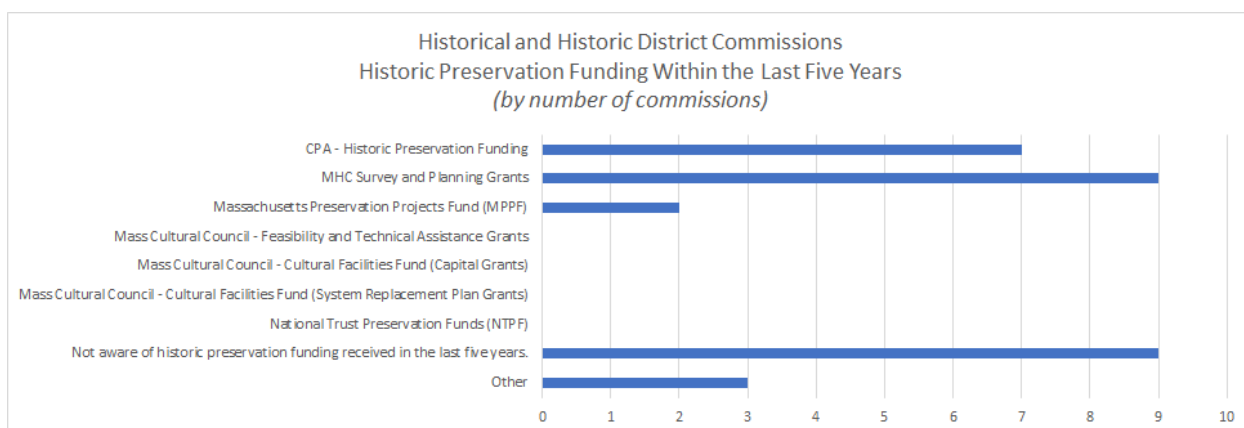


Figure 13 - All Commissions - HP Funding Withing the Last Five Years

Commissioners were largely not aware of a variety of potential historic preservation funding sources that entities in their community might be eligible for. Approximately one-third of commissions were aware of the Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and CPA funding for historic preservation; a quarter of commissions were aware of the Preservation Mass - Historic Matching Grant program. Three or fewer commissions were aware of five of the remaining programs, while commissions were entirely unaware of four programs, all based in Massachusetts. “Other” comments indicated that in one case “another commissioner might have this knowledge,” in another that more information was desired on these funds; one commission reported receiving non-historic preservation funding from the Mass Cultural Council. Seven commissions reported that they were not aware of any of these funding sources. Lack of knowledge did not indicate a lack of interest, however. As one respondent noted, “please communicate to us about these.”

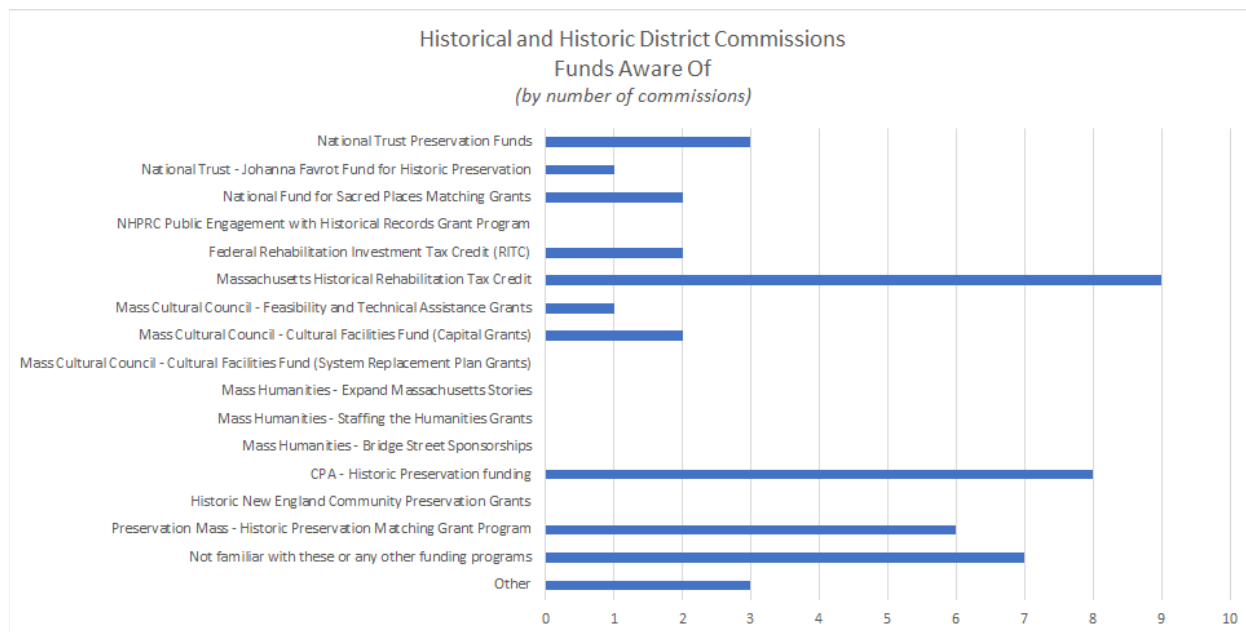


Figure 14 - All Commissions - Known Funding Sources

Plans and Goals

Commissions were asked to identify their plans and goals for the next five years (Figure 15). Commissions identified as few as one and as many as six goals; most commissions reported up to three goals. Three commissions indicated they did not have specific plans or goals for the next five years.

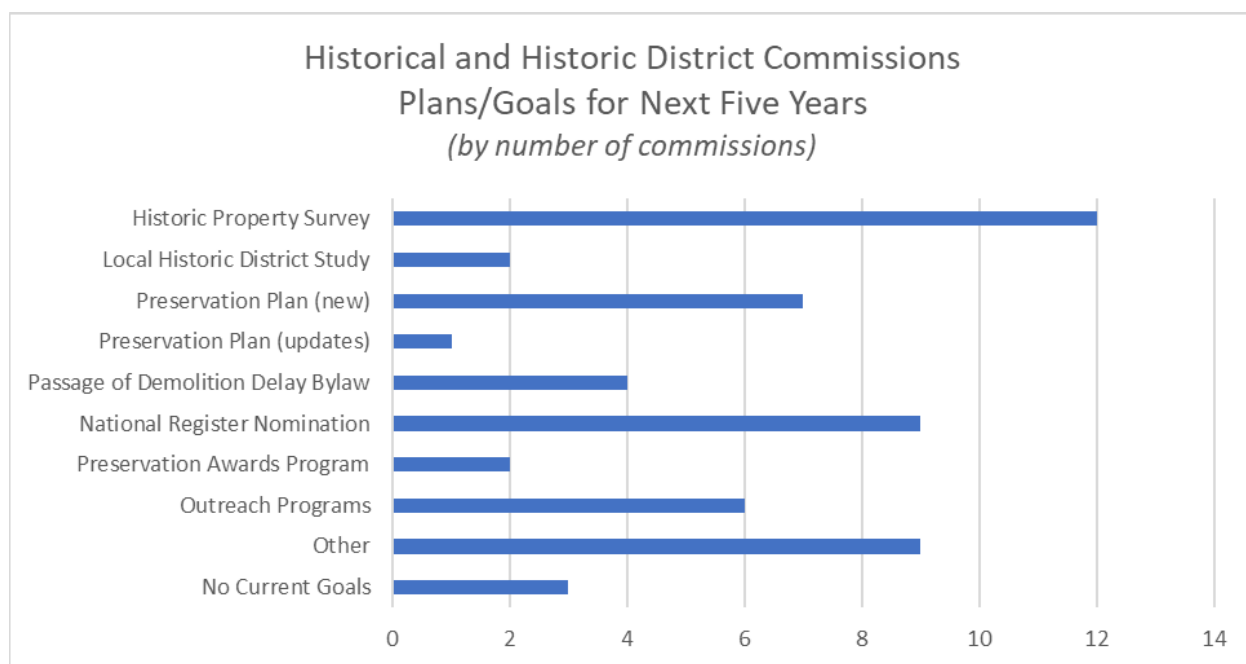


Figure 15 - All Commissions - Plans and Goals for Next Five Years

The most common goal, identified by half of active commissions, was addressing their historic property survey. National Register nominations and preservation plans (new or updated) were goals of roughly one-third of commissions. Outreach programs were a goal among a quarter of active commissions. Four commissions are looking to pass a demolition delay bylaw, three are aiming to undertake a local historic district study, and three hope to develop a preservation awards program.

Other plans/goals/comments as reported by commissions:

- *Revisions to current guidelines and possibly bylaws*
- *Continued collaboration with the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Community on archaeology and National Register nomination amendments. We hope to be included in more Town planning efforts and see a need to have a Town Preservation Plan to secure good and timely treatment of historic properties, both Town and privately owned.*
- *Certified Local Government for Lenox. We are contemplating some form of affirmative maintenance. It would be useful to have a list of communities that have had success with this.*
- *Our goal is to identify, record, and communicate our records, historical findings to the community. We are also involved with cemetery preservation (in process).*
- *Photograph historic properties, scan hardcopy records, and make historic records available online.*
- *Project related to our archive, such as archival of documents and items, as well as an ongoing oral history project.*
- *Making all property owners in the local historic district aware of their obligations.*
- *Maintaining a running list of owners asking for inclusion in the survey. Getting "The Wigwam" on the National Register.*
- *Celebration of the town's 225 year history.*
- *Finding a healthy "home" for our collection.*

A few commissions expressed challenges with identifying five-year goals:

- *No current goals; we only meet as requested by the town. Our historical society has plans to move the one-room schoolhouse to the town center (currently located in a remote area, removing and restoring would improve access and protect resources); and also to establish an archive repository for the town.*
- *We haven't been thinking 5 years out*
- *Need education on how we should operate*

Open-ended Questions

Equity and Representation

As awareness expands about the importance of ensuring equity and representation both in the makeup of organizational bodies and in the way we examine and present historical narratives, commissions were asked to respond to the following open-ended question:

How does your commission address issues of equity and representation both in terms of commission membership, and as part of project priorities?

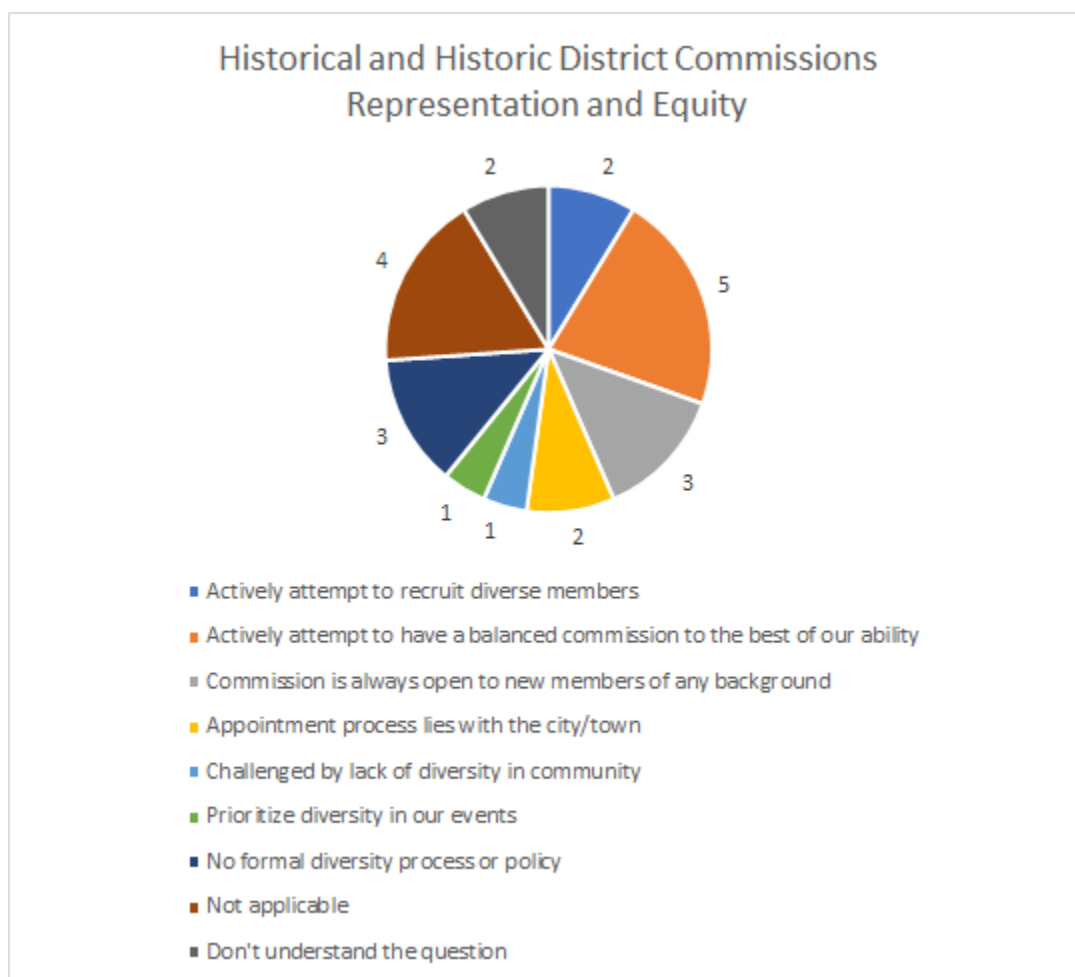


Figure 16 - All Commissions - Representation and Equity

Twenty-three commissions provided an answer to this open-ended question; their open-ended answers were classified into nine general responses. Two respondents indicated that their commission actively attempted to recruit diverse members. Five respondents

indicated that commission membership was always open to new members of any background. Three respondents gave answers that indicated an attempt to balance their commission to the best of their ability. Two respondents noted that the appointment process was left to the town. One respondent reported that diversity was a desirable goal, but was a challenge for their particular community. One respondent noted that diversity is a priority for their sponsored events. Three respondents indicated that there was no formal diversity process or policy, and four respondents indicated that this issue was “not applicable” or “not a consideration” for their commission. Two respondents reported not understanding the question. Only two respondents indicated an attempt to address equity and representation in the content of commission *projects* (not just committee membership), and only one of the two noted a *specific* initiative currently underway.

Survey answers indicate a growing need for training in the areas of equity and representation. Such training would allow for new perspectives on commissions, and ideally lead to more inclusive historic preservation planning processes and preservation outcomes.

COVID Impact on Commissions

As the COVID crisis moved work home, and meetings migrated to on-line platforms, commissioners were faced with adopting new technologies in order to meet, or choosing to opt-out of online platforms altogether and pause commission work until in-person meetings could resume. We asked respondents to reflect on their commission’s experience with this transition and the responses ran the gamut, with some expressing having experienced both the negatives and the positives of meeting remotely.

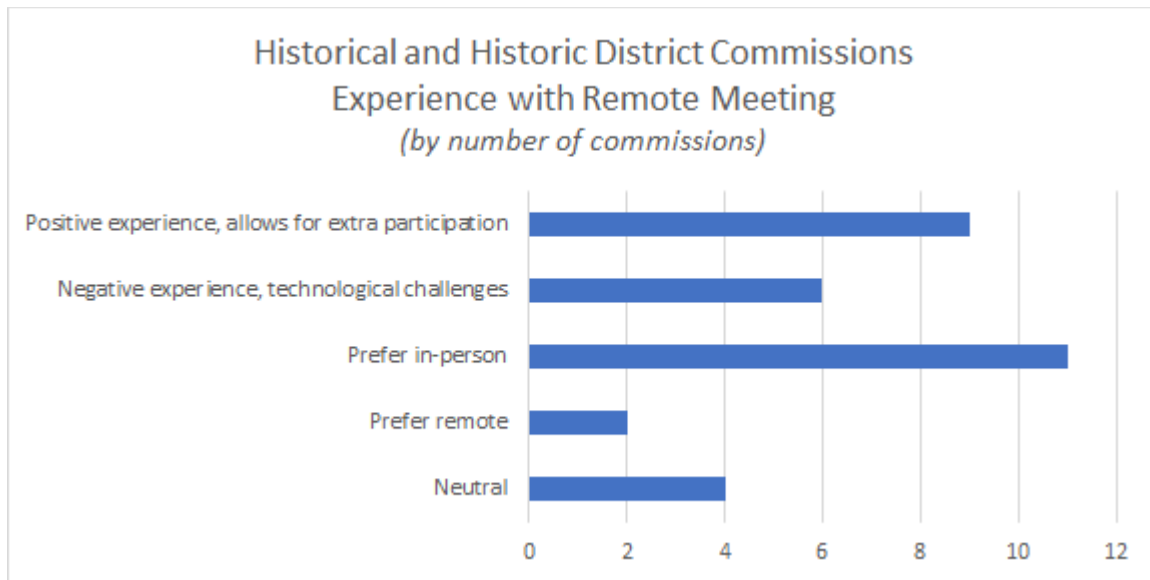


Figure 17 - All Commissions - Experience with Remote Meeting

Nine respondents noted that remote meetings allowed for participation from people who might not otherwise attend. This included city/town staff, commissioners, and members of the public. Six respondents noted that remote meetings had a negative impact on their commission, largely due to technological challenges for select commissioners or sometimes entire commissions.

Despite some of the upsides to meeting remotely, 11 respondents still indicated a desire to return to meeting in person as soon as possible, with one respondent indicating a hope for a hybrid meeting model to continue to allow for remote participation. Only two respondents expressed a desire for permanent remote meeting, while four respondents were largely neutral on the switch.

Survey answers give insight into how changes in technology can be used to increase access and participation for both commissioners and members of the public. However, commissions are not equal in their technological capacity. Equipment needs and technological training must be addressed in order to assure equity across commissions who desire or are required to meet remotely.

Desired Assistance from BRPC and General Comments

Commissions were asked how Berkshire Regional Planning Commission could specifically assist Local Historical Commissions/Local Historic District Commissions, and for any general comments that might be helpful. A variety of themes emerged in their answers.

Several commissions expressed a desire for more information on available resources:

- *This survey has identified resources we don't use or are unaware of (e.g. Western MA Historical Commission Coalition). More information about Historical Commission resources, including the results of this survey, would be helpful.*
- *I was not aware of many of the resources mentioned in the survey. A publication listing them and what they cover would be useful.*
- *With resources that may be available to guide us.*
- *Through more direct outreach and communication.*

Commissions also indicated a desire for more training and education:

- *Having someone facilitate a county wide historic commission meeting either in person or via zoom would be helpful so we could coordinate with each other. Being able to see what others are doing or have done so we could collaborate instead of working independently would be great.*
- *We also need more hands-on computer training.*
- *Training in making local commissions effective*
- *Continue with emailings and updates on available meetings*
- *Sending monthly notices via email with available workshops and/or other opportunities.*

Some commissions expressed interest in county-wide meetings, and meeting with BRPC directly:

- *Host County-wide meetings of said Commissions*
- *We would like to meet with the BRPC to explore possibilities.*
- *It would be useful to meet and have a discussion about what is and is not possible.*

Funding was an issue for two communities:

- *In attending workshops, we found that we would need a considerable amount of funding to list properties on the National Register. We need to investigate possible funding/grants in order to even begin the process.*
- *Funding to preserve buildings.*

Other desired assistance included help “getting a local historic district off the ground,” and “help to have direction to get our commission more active, more aware of available resources.” One commission expressed a need to “help us make the other town boards more aware of our value to them and the community.”

Town of Adams

Commission Status

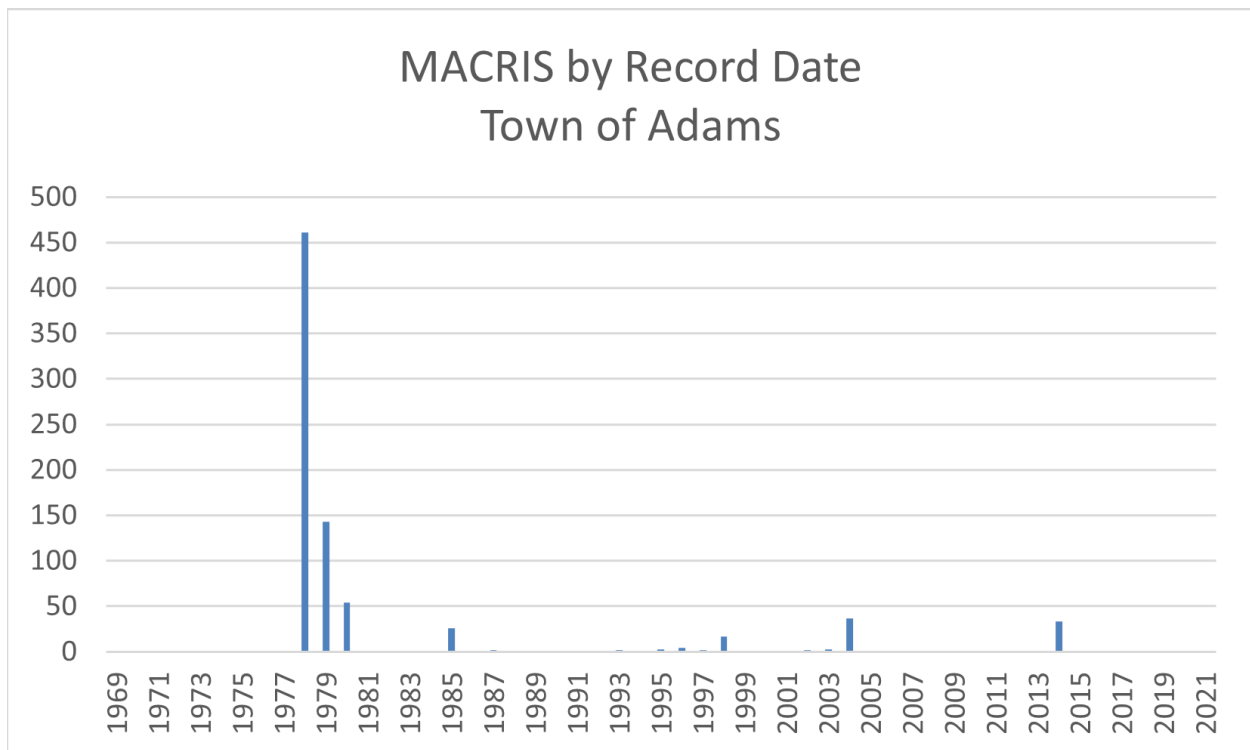
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Adams Historical Commission has been inactive since 2021. Schedule conflicts resulting in low meeting attendance led to the commission becoming inactive. The Commission plans to become active again in the near future.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Adams was prepared in the late 1970s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Adams on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 720 buildings, 22 areas, 7 burial grounds, 35 structures, and 39 objects. Individual inventory

forms are lacking for 152 records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Adams.

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Adams.

- Mount Greylock Summit Historic District
- Summer Street Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are 13 National Register Individual Property listings and one National Register Site listing in Adams.

Webpage

Although currently inactive, the town maintains a webpage for the commission. The webpage is easy to navigate and has a fair level of information; the overview section is weak, and does not include a calendar or links to agendas and minutes. Items that would improve the page are a stronger overview, including commission responsibilities; a calendar showing past and upcoming meetings; a general email address for communication with the commission; links to bylaws; and state and national historic preservation resources. *The Town of Adams uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Successes

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

If the Historical Commission is reactivated, the Town of Adams could consider adding seats for alternates in order to compensate for scheduling conflicts with regular commissioners, making a consistent meeting schedule more likely. As the Town reports an active and engaged Historical Society, recruiting more commissioners from this organization could be useful in energizing a newly reactivated commission.

Town of Alford

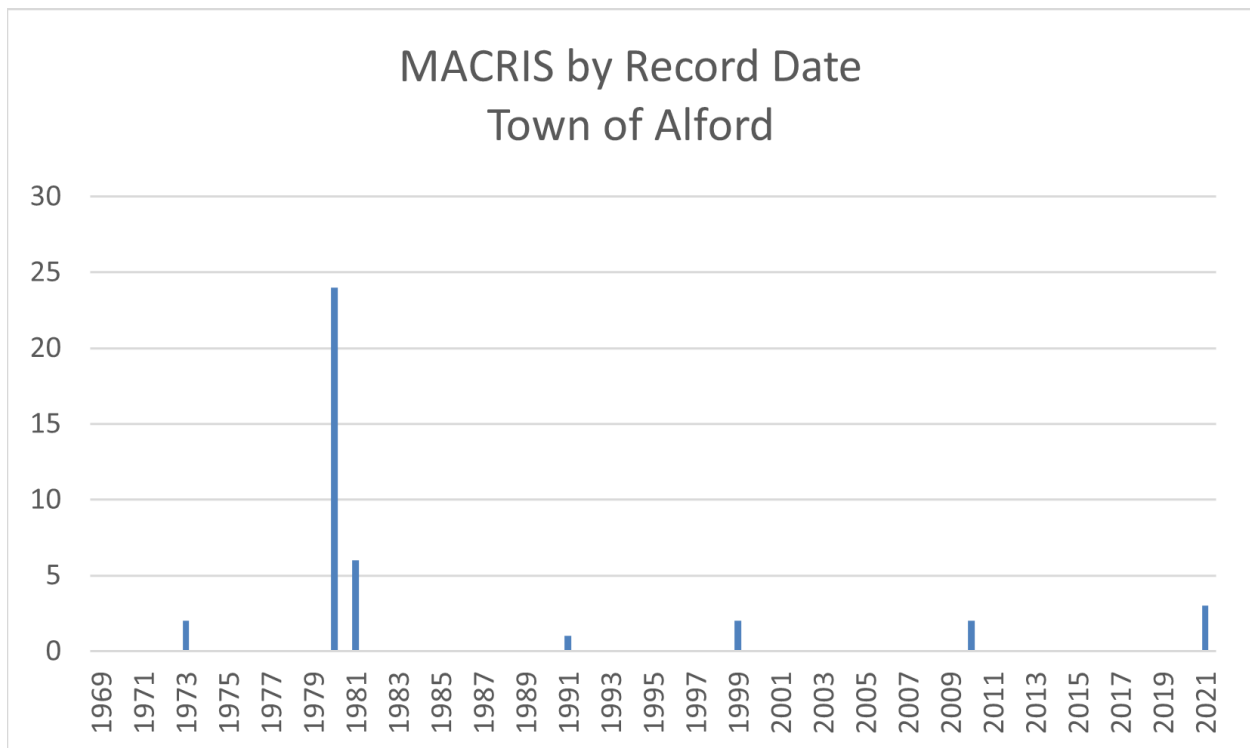
Commission Status

Combined Historical and Historic District Commission - somewhat active.

Overview

The Town of Alford has a seven-member commission (with alternates) which meets as needed. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not participated in any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Alford was prepared in the early 1980s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Alford on the Massachusetts Cultural

Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 32 buildings, 2 areas, 4 burial grounds, 4 structures and no objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 3 of these records. A more thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There is one local historic district in Alford.

- Alford Center Historic District

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Alford.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Alford.

Webpage

The Historic District Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a good level of information, including links to establishing legislation, by-laws, and reports and documents, and up-to-date agendas and minutes. Missing items that would improve the page are the inclusion of specific commissioner responsibilities in the overview section, a general email address for communication with the commission, a physical address, links to town historic resources, and links to state and national historic resources. *The Town of Alford uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for advising the Select Board; undertaking local historic district study; and review of Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

Commission Challenges

The commission is not experiencing challenges at this time.

Commission Successes

Recent successes include the expansion of the Alford Center Historic District and improvements to the buildings and surrounding grounds.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

The continued upgrade of the Alford Center Historic District buildings and surrounding grounds.

Recommendations

The Town of Alford Historical Commission reports no current challenges, but has not attended any trainings, and is in need of a survey update. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on the basics of historic property survey and local historic district administration, as well as pursuing opportunities for historical preservation funding.

Town of Becket

Commission Status

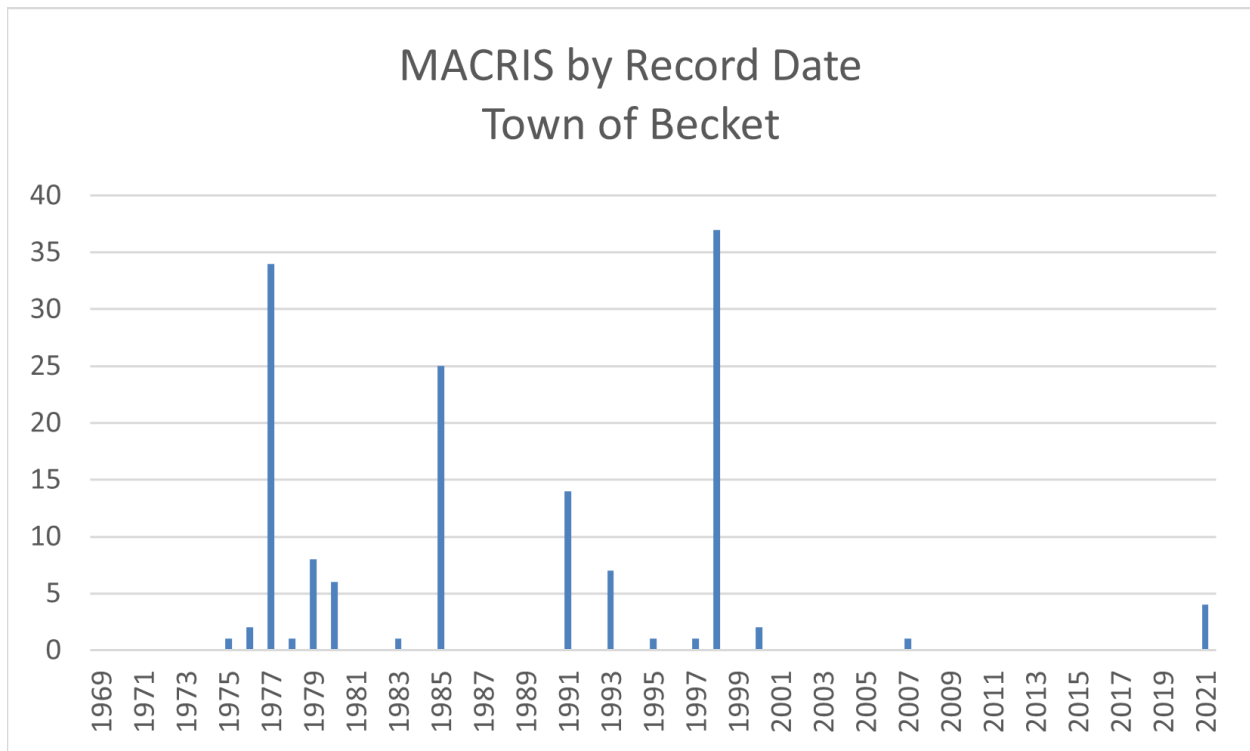
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Becket has a five-member commission (with no alternates), which meets once a month. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Community Preservation Coalition* and the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Becket was prepared prior to the year 2000. Much of the existing inventory is now out of date and incomplete. A

review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Becket on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 92 buildings, 7 areas, 6 burial grounds, 43 structures and 2 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 40 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Becket.

National Register Districts - There are four National Register Districts in Becket.

- Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
- Middlefield-Becket Stone Arch Railroad Bridge District
- North Becket Village Historic District
- Western Railroad Stone Arch Bridges and Chester Factory Village Depot

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Becket.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate but has a minimal level of information. Missing items that would improve the page are an overview of the commission's mission and responsibilities; meeting day/time, location and frequency; links to documents, forms or bylaws; and links to local, state, and national preservation resources. *The Town of Becket uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

6-month delay

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2008. Surcharge 1.5%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions; reviewing demolition permit requests; and reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission

Commission Successes

The commission has researched and written "Historical Facts" articles for the Historic Commission section of the Becket town website. The Historic Commission coordinated and co-sponsored a presentation and tour by John Hanson, who explained the 1700s epitaphs found in the historic Becket Center Cemetery at the First Congregational Church.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Historic property survey, creation of a preservation plan, and outreach programs.

Recommendations

The Town of Becket has an active commission with a variety of responsibilities. Commissioners have attended some trainings, and are interested in further training opportunities. The town's survey is in need of review and updating. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on the basics of historic preservation planning, historic property survey, and demolition delay bylaw administration. The commission could engage with MHC for guidance on the process of developing a preservation plan.

Town of Cheshire

Commission Status

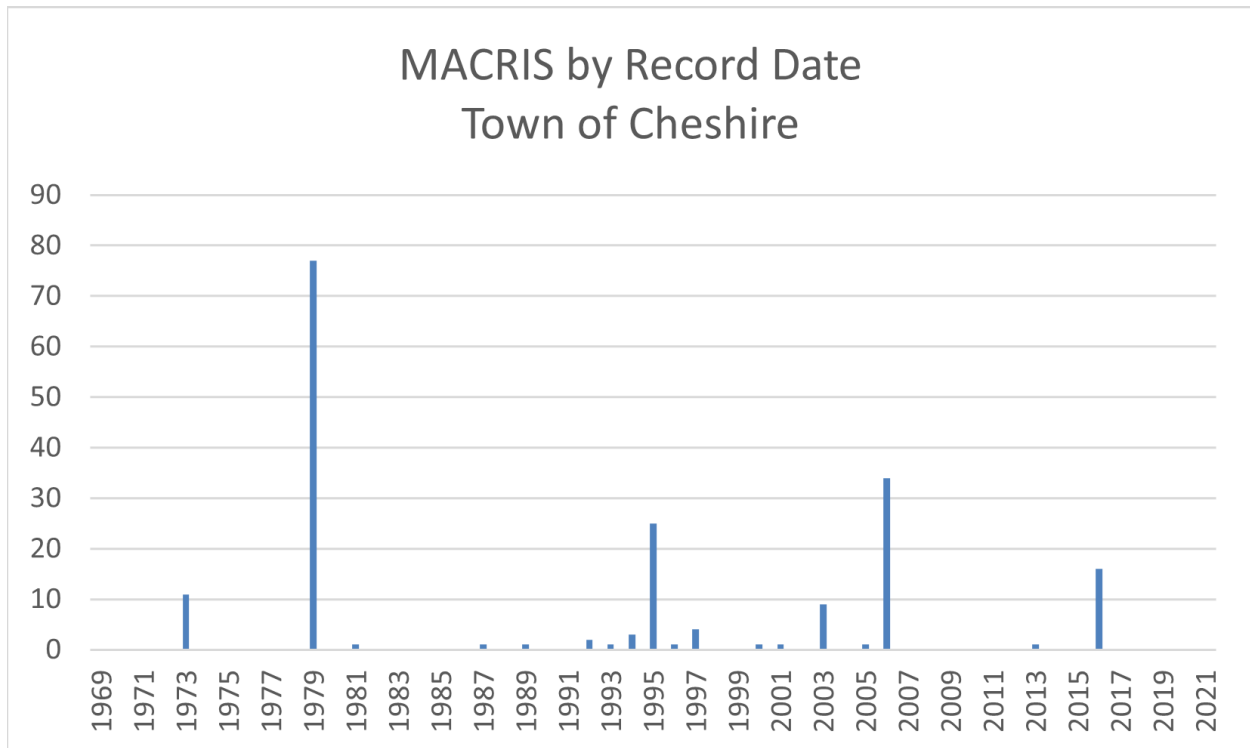
Historical Commission - unknown.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Efforts to reach the Town of Cheshire were unsuccessful.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Cheshire was prepared prior to the year 2000. A significant portion of the inventory is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Cheshire on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 110 buildings, 5 areas, 9 burial grounds, 17 structures and no objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 53 of these

records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Cheshire.

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Cheshire.

- Cheshire Town Hall Complex
- Farnams Village Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing, one National Register Site listing, and one National Register Structure listing in Cheshire.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage. *The Town of Cheshire uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Unknown.

Commission Challenges

Unknown.

Commission Successes

Unknown.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Unknown.

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Clarksburg

Commission Status

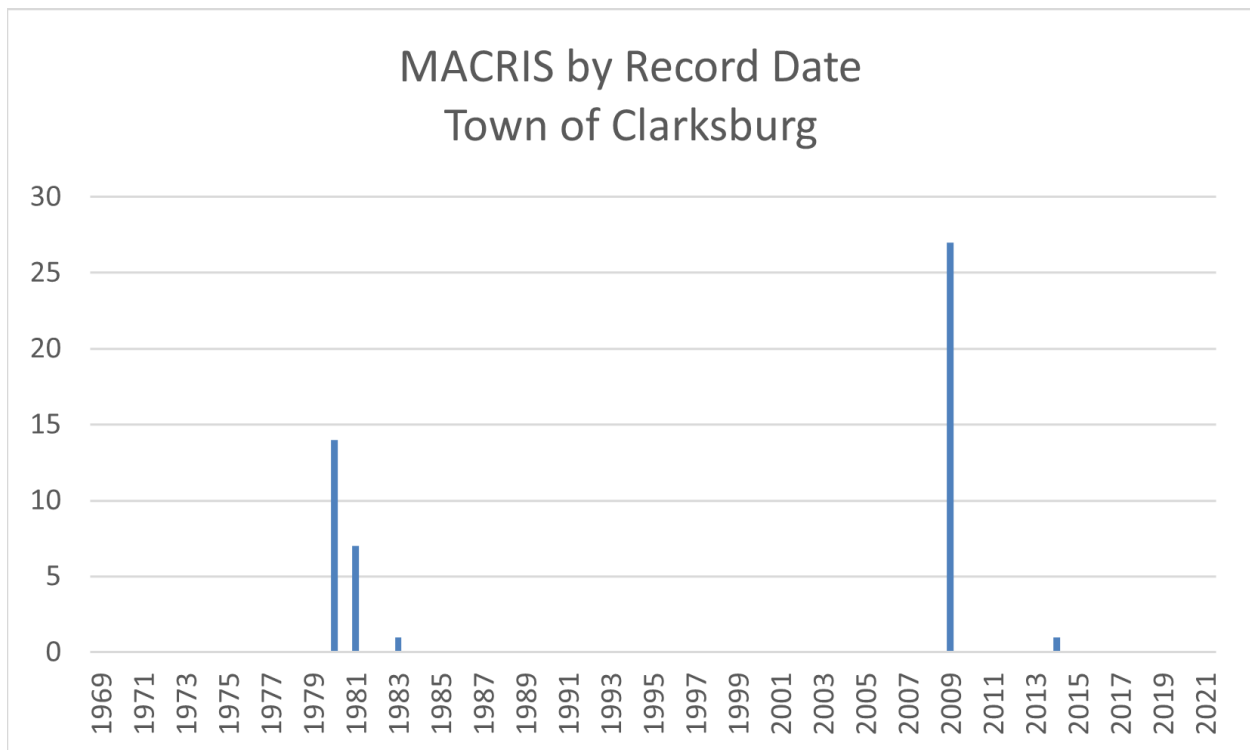
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Clarksburg has a three-member commission (with no alternates), which meets twice monthly. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the last five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



Approximately half of the historic property survey for the Town of Clarksburg was prepared in the early 1980s, and half in 2009. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of

Clarksburg on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 45 buildings, 1 area, no burial grounds, 2 structures and no objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 22 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Clarksburg.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Clarksburg.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Clarksburg.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage lists commissioners and their telephone and email contact information, but has very little additional information. There are no HC-specific navigation links, and the page mostly discusses (in paragraph form) activities the commission is undertaking. Visitors to the page are invited to help identify several historical photos. The page would benefit from a reorganization which includes an overview outlining commission responsibilities; general contact information; meeting day/time, location and frequency; commissioner term expirations; and information on how to obtain agendas and minutes. Town history is available through a town link in the top banner. *The Town of Clarksburg uses the BerkSites platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; the drafting of a demolition delay bylaw; beginning the process of getting properties on the National Register; and exploring a possible historic district.

Commission Challenges

Lack of funding, a lack of knowledge base on commission, and time constraints.

Commission Successes

None at this time; the commission is fairly new and still getting organized.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Historic property survey; local historic district study; preservation plan; passage of demolition delay bylaw; National Register nomination; and celebration of the town's 225-year history.

Recommendations

The Town of Clarksburg's historical commission is newly reactivated, and would benefit from establishing priorities among its multiple goals, particularly the updating of their historic property survey and nominations to the National Register.. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on the basics of historic preservation planning, historic property survey and demolition delay bylaw.

Town of Dalton

Commission Status

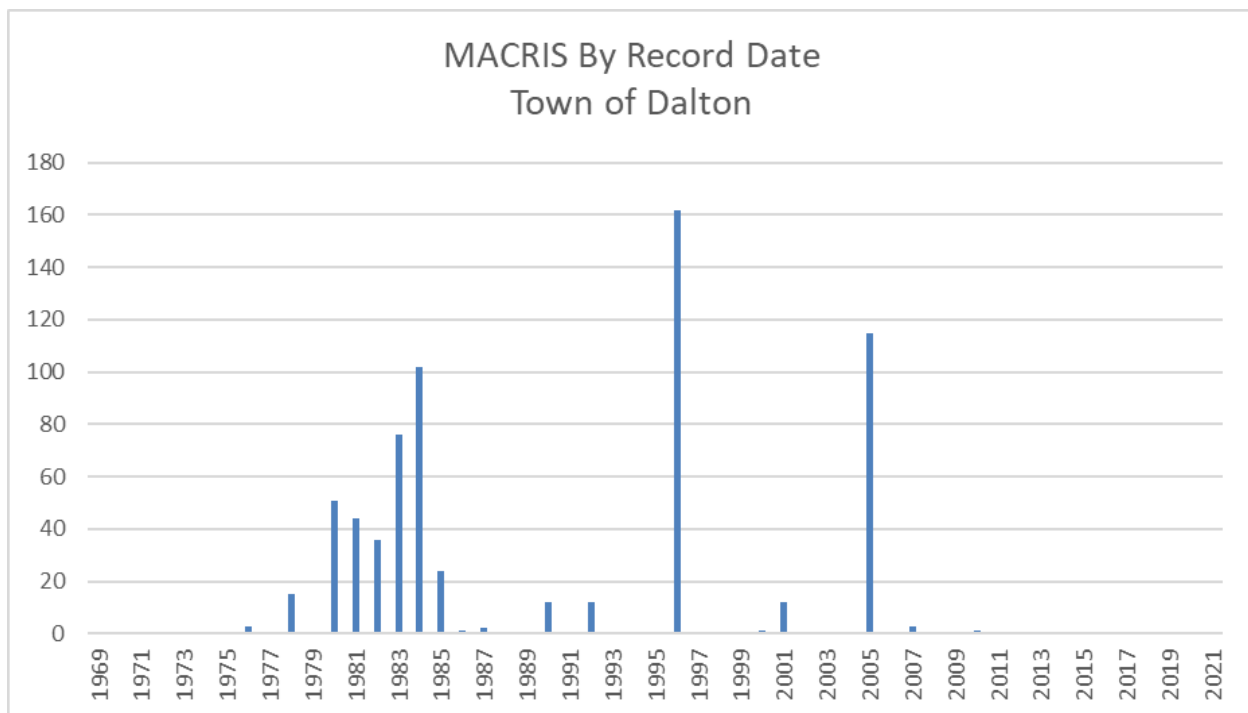
Historical Commission - unknown.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Efforts to reach the Dalton Historical Commission were unsuccessful.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Dalton was prepared in the early 1980s, with additional survey completed in the mid-1990s and mid-2000s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Clarksburg on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 754 buildings, 6 areas, 3 burial grounds, 15 structures and 4 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 181 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Dalton.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Dalton.

- Cranesville Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings and three National Register Site listings in Dalton.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a fair level of information. Commission responsibilities are not identified beyond the collection of historic materials and information. Commissioner information is available through a link to a subpage hosted by mytowngovernment.org, which also provides a link to upcoming meeting information and agenda, although that is not indicated on the main page. Commission term expirations are listed, but not up to date. Missing items that would improve the page are a general commission email on the main page; identification of specific commission responsibilities; information on how to access agendas and minutes; and links to pertinent documents, forms, and bylaws. *The Town of Dalton uses the Mungy Site platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Unknown.

Commission Challenges

Unknown.

Commission Successes

Unknown.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Unknown.

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Egremont

Commission Status

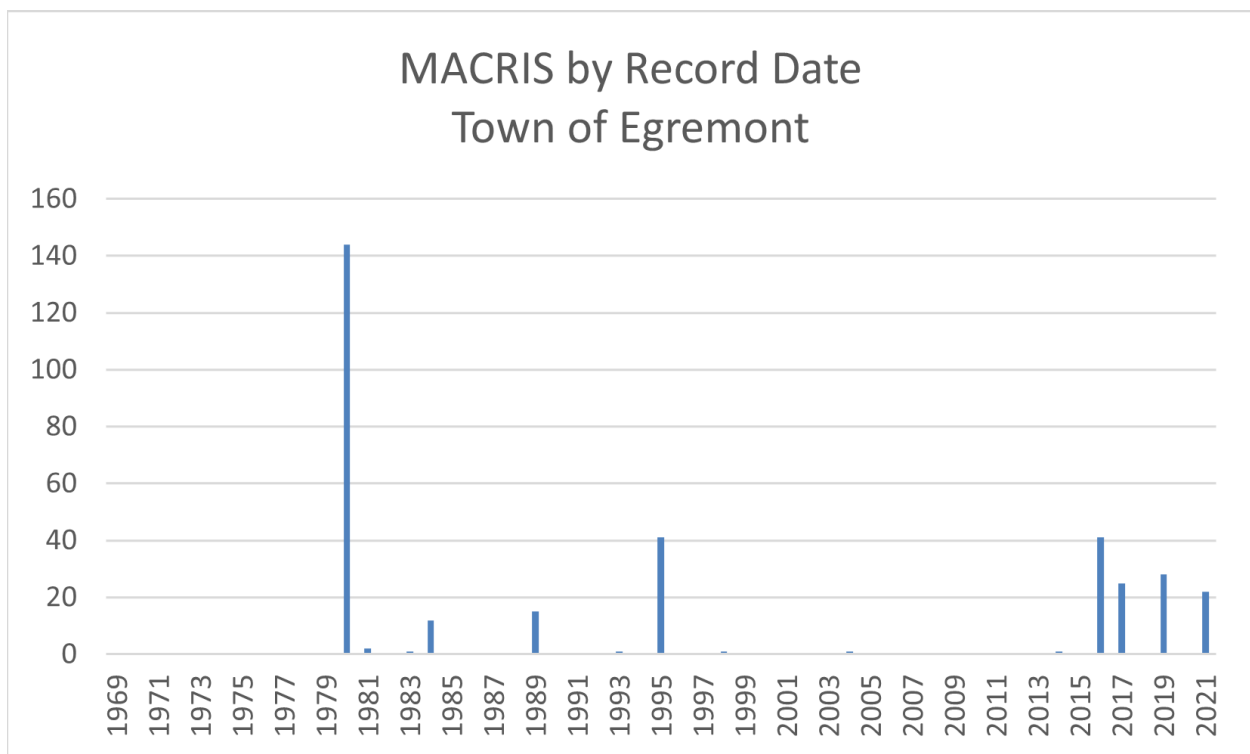
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Egremont has a seven-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month. The town is responsible for posting agendas and meeting minutes, but the commission is responsible for facilitating meetings and writing minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission* and the *Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition*. Historic preservation funding has been received through the *Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Egremont was prepared in the early 1980s, with additional survey including significant updating since 2016. A

review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Egremont on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 245 buildings, 8 areas, 6 burial grounds, 8 structures and 1 object. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 94 of these records. A more thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Egremont.

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Egremont.

- North Egremont Historic District
- Westover - Bacon - Potts Farm

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Egremont.

Webpage

The Town of Egremont has two Historical Commission pages. The municipal page is minimal, in basic HTML format. An external page is extensive, but has the appearance of a non-profit organization, not a municipal committee.

The internal Historical Commission webpage has few navigation links, and has a minimal level of information. Commissioner information does not include terms or term expirations, and appears to be out-of-date when compared to the external website. A link to the most current meeting takes visitors to the agenda, but no other agendas or minutes are available. Commission responsibilities are not identified, nor are the date/time, location, or frequency of meetings. There are no links to bylaws, documents, or forms.

A link on the municipal page takes visitors to the external website, which while attractive and well-designed with a wealth of information and resources, does not provide easy access to information related to the workings of the commission itself.

Redesigns of both pages are recommended, with the municipal page containing all the basic information necessary for a site visitor to engage with the commission.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions; working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations; undertaking a local historic district study; and management of the town's historic archives.

Commission Challenges

Lack of support or interest from community; a desire for more municipal staff support; understanding the direction and goals of commission; and time constraints.

Commission Successes

Updating the town's historic building inventory, coordinating funding for historic structures reports, and providing input on historic buildings in town.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Passage of demolition delay bylaw; archiving of documents & items; and ongoing oral history project.

Recommendations

The Town of Egremont has been consistently active in the last five years in updating its historic properties survey. The commission could benefit from trainings in understanding their role as a Local Historical Commission, working with local officials, and demolition delay bylaw development.

Town of Florida

Commission Status

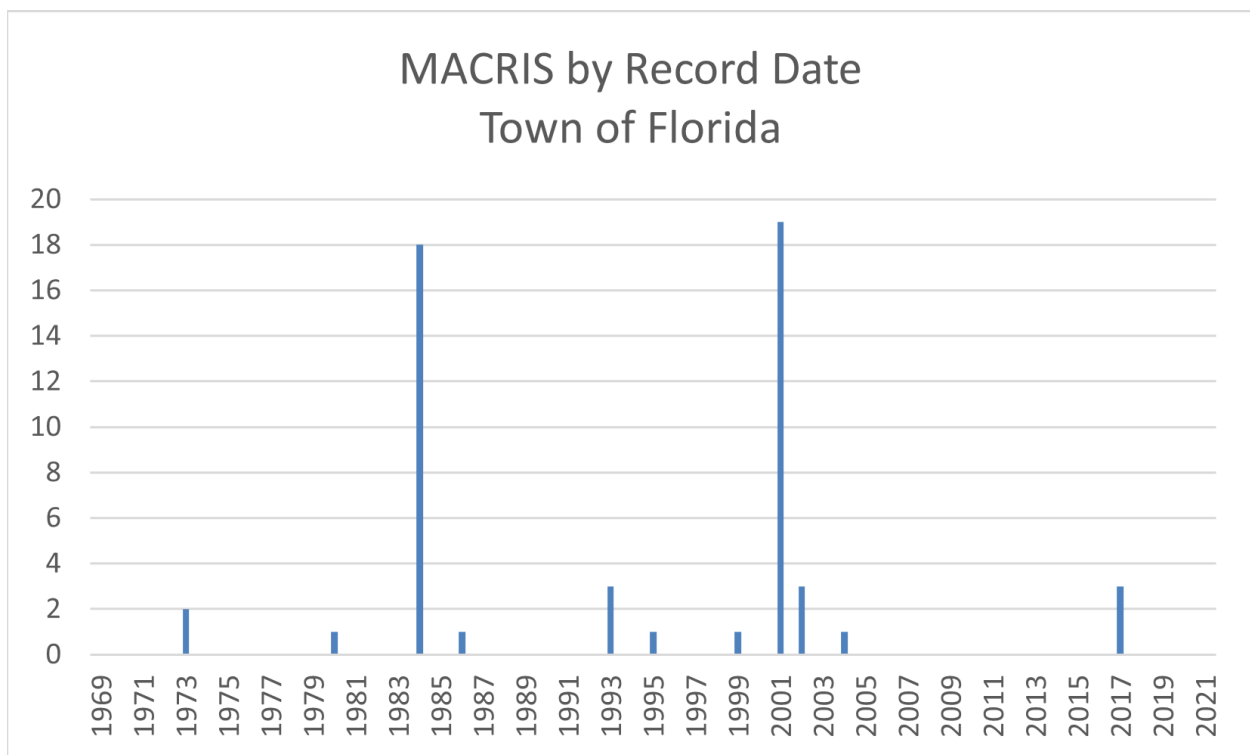
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Florida's Historical Commission is inactive. No further information was available.

Historic Property Survey Status



Most of the historic property survey for the Town of Florida was prepared prior to the year 2000. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Florida on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 32 buildings, 6 areas, 7 burial grounds, 10 structures and 2 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 24 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to

determine survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Florida.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Florida.

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Site listing in Florida.

Webpage

N/A

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Great Barrington

Commission Status

Historical Commission - active.

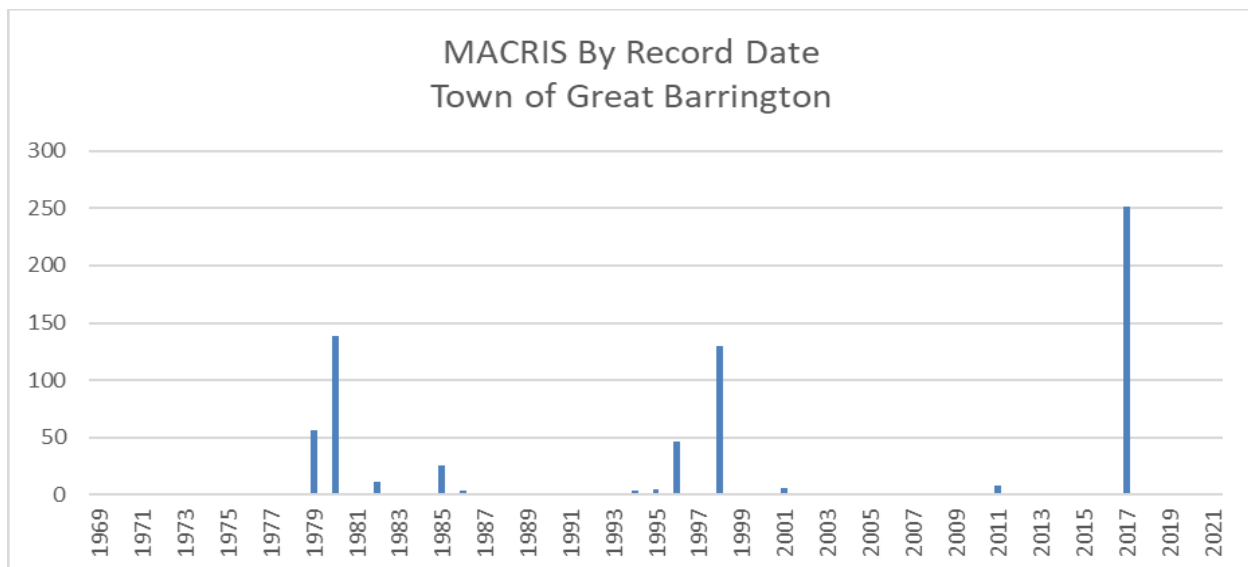
Historic District Commission - active.

Overview

Historical Commission - The Town of Great Barrington has a seven-member historical commission (with no alternates) which meets every other month. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The town has received preservation funding from *Community Preservation Funds* and the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic District Commission - Great Barrington has a seven-member historic district commission (with alternates) which meets once a month. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has participated in trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds* and the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Great Barrington was prepared prior to the year 2000. A substantial update completed in 2017 consisted almost exclusively of area forms, so that individual forms for most of these resources are still lacking. Inventory prior to 2000 is now largely out of date. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Great Barrington on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 649 buildings, 15 areas, 5 burial grounds, 26 structures and 14 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 345 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are three local historic districts in Great Barrington.

- District A (Downtown Historic District)
- Searles Castle Historic District
- District C

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Great Barrington.

- Taconic and West Avenues Historic District
- Wheeler Family Farmstead

National Register Individual Listings - There are 10 National Register Individual Property listings and one National Register Site listing in Great Barrington.

Webpage

Historical Commission - The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a fair level of information, although there is no telephone number or email listed to contact the commission. Missing items that would improve the page are a general email address and telephone number for the commission; a link to the Historic District Commission webpage; a link to the Community Preservation Committee webpage; links to documents, forms and bylaws; regular meeting day/time, frequency, and location; and links to local, state, and national preservation resources.

Historic District Commission - The Historic District Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a good level of information, although there is no telephone number or email listed to contact the commission. Missing items that would improve the page are a general email address and telephone number for the commission; a link to the Historical Commission webpage; regular meeting day/time, frequency, and location; and links to local, state, and national preservation resources.

The Town of Great Barrington uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2012. Surcharge 3%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Historical Commission - The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources, advising the Select Board and boards and commissions; review of Community Preservation Act funding proposals; and working with Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations.

Historic District Commission - The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals; working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations; and reviewing Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

Commission Challenges

Historical Commission - The commission is not experiencing challenges at this time.

Historic District Commission - Filling seats on the commission

Commission Successes

Historical Commission - The commission published a smartphone historical walking tour of Great Barrington, and is working to expand it to include a DuBois heritage walking tour; and published a book - "Great Barrington Here and Gone" - to promote historical preservation.

Historic District Commission - None currently identified.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Historical Commission - Conducting a historic property survey, the passage of demolition delay bylaw, and National Register nominations.

Historic District Commission - Conducting a historic property survey.

Recommendations

Historical Commission - The Town of Great Barrington has an active historical commission with a variety of responsibilities, and which reports no current challenges, but has not attended any trainings. The commission could benefit from attending a variety of trainings, including the basics of historical preservation planning, understanding the role of a Local Historical Commission, working with local officials, historic property survey, and demolition delay bylaw development.

Historic District Commission - The local historic district commission could benefit from attending trainings in local historic district administration and historic property survey.

Town of Hancock

Commission Status

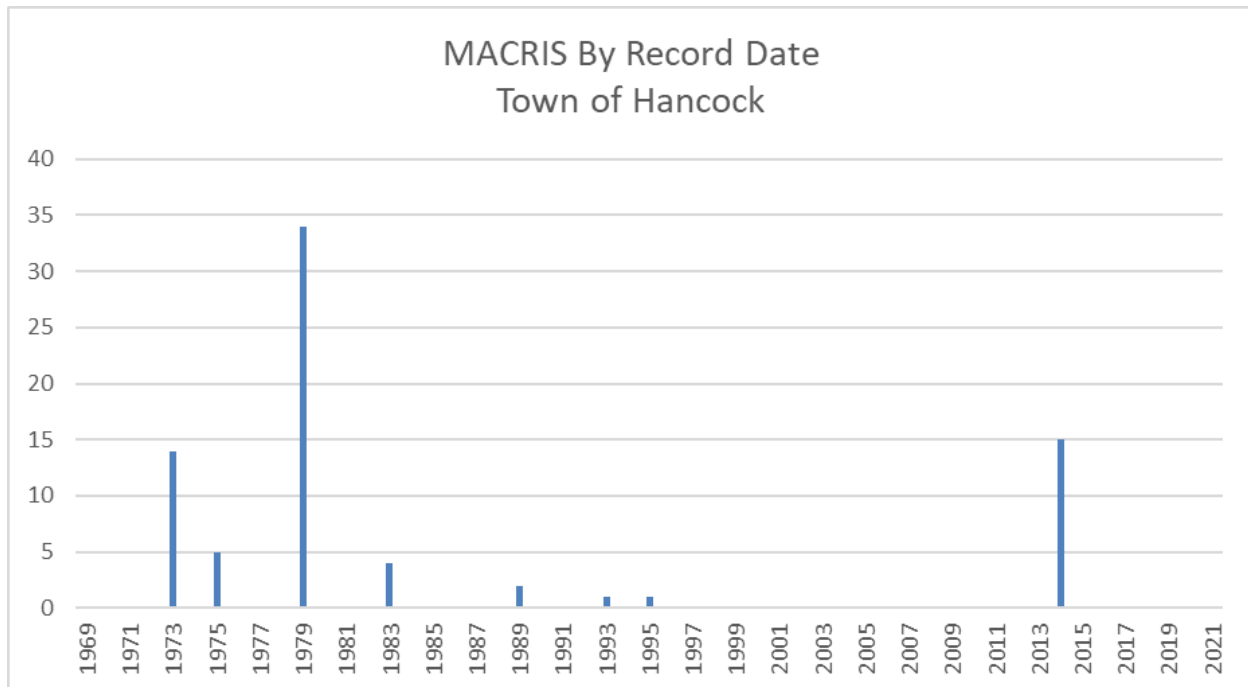
Historical Commission - unknown.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Efforts to reach the Hancock Historical Commission were unsuccessful.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Hancock was prepared in the 1970s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Hancock on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 70 buildings, 3 areas, 9 burial grounds, 8 structures and 2 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 18 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Hancock.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Hancock.

- Hancock Shaker Village

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing in Hancock.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage, and navigation to Historical Commission information is unclear. Visitors must click on **Departments**, then **Committees**, then scroll to the Historical Commission entry. The regular meeting day, time and location is listed, as are the names of commissioners, but no terms or term expirations are included. Given the limited nature of the town website platform overall, it may be challenging to provide extensive additional information, but a general commission contact email and telephone number, term expirations, and a link to the current bylaw could be added to the existing listing. *The Town of Hancock uses the WordPress platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Unknown.

Commission Challenges

Unknown.

Commission Successes

Unknown.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Unknown.

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Hinsdale

Commission Status

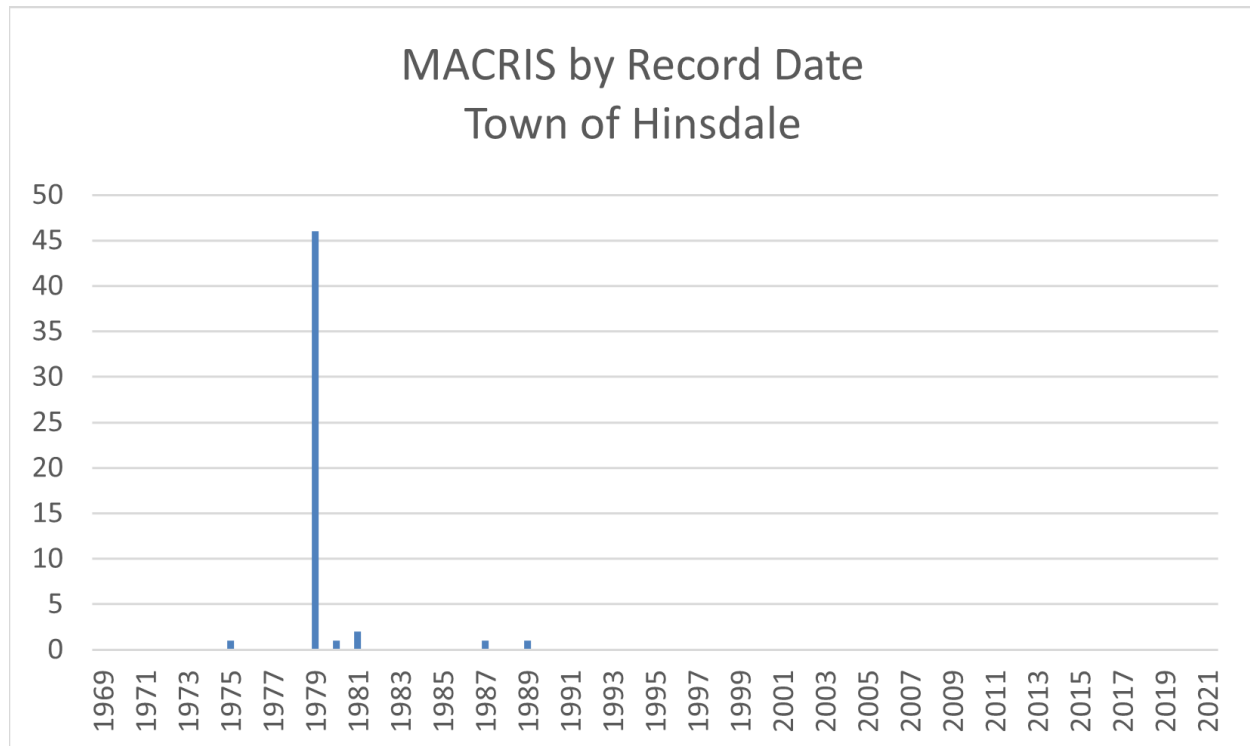
Historical Commission - unknown.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Efforts to reach the Hinsdale Historical Commission were unsuccessful.

Historic Property Survey Status



The overwhelming majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Hinsdale was prepared in 1979. It is both out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Hinsdale on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 43 buildings, 5 areas, 3 burial grounds, 6 structures and 2 objects. No forms are lacking for these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey

needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage. *The Town of Hinsdale uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Hinsdale.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Hinsdale.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Hinsdale.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Unknown.

Commission Challenges

Unknown.

Commission Successes

Unknown.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Unknown.

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Lanesborough

Commission Status

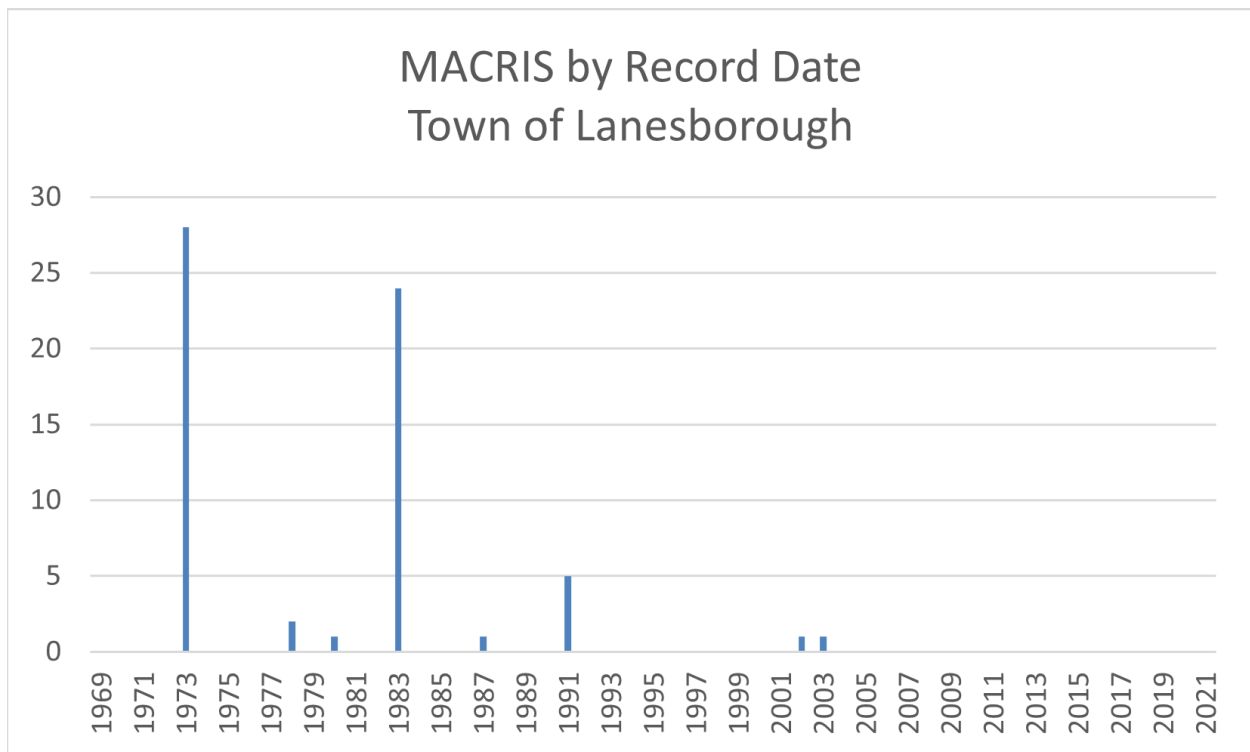
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Lanesborough's historical commission is inactive. Scheduling conflicts and challenges with open meeting law led to the commission becoming inactive. The commission may become active in the near future if commission vacancies can be filled.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Lanesborough was prepared in the mid-1970s and mid-1980s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Lanesborough on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 64 buildings, 4 areas, 2 burial grounds, 6 structures and 1

object. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 5 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage. *The Town of Lanesborough uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Lanesborough.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Lanesborough.

➤ Pettibone Farm

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing in Lanesborough.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Lee

Commission Status

Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

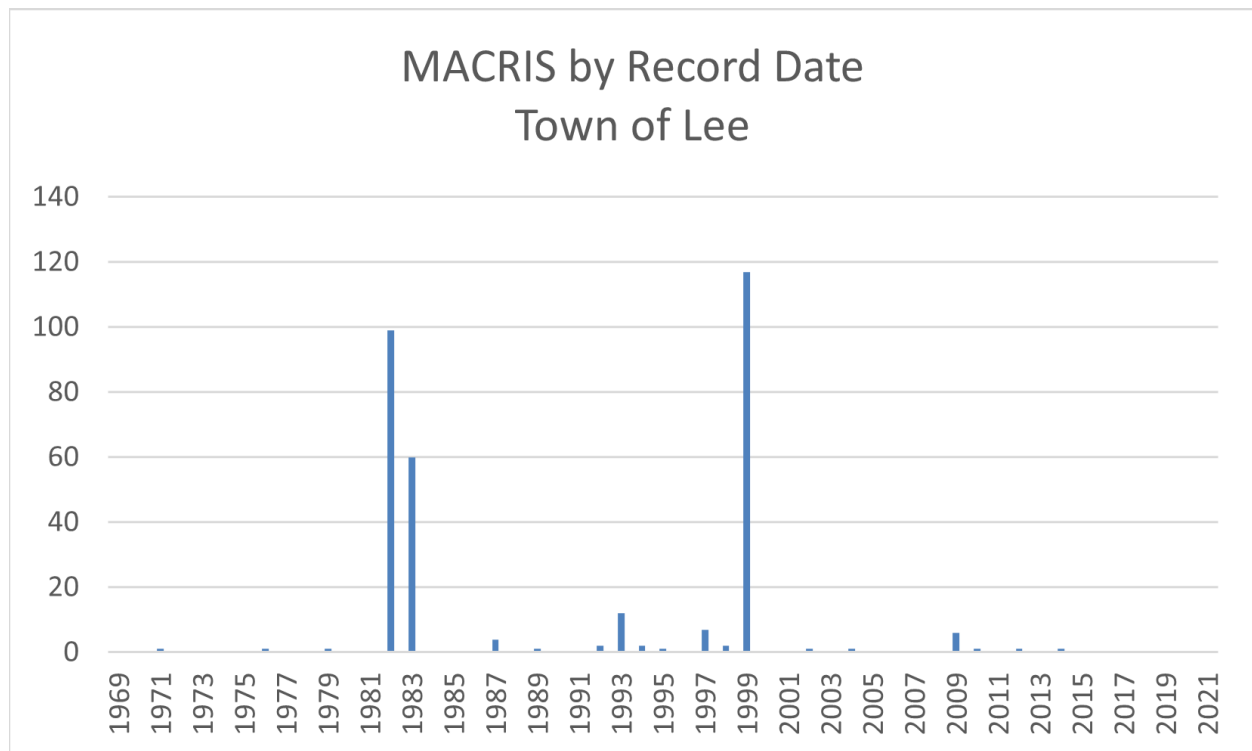
Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2020. Surcharge 1.5%.

Overview

The Town of Lee has a seven-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month, but only for part of the year. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission* and the *Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition*. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Lee was prepared prior to the year 2000. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Lee on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 295 buildings, 5 areas, 2 burial grounds, 15 structures and 9 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 24 of these records. A survey will be undertaken in 2022 to begin to bring the historic property inventory up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Lee.

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Lee.

- Lower Main Street Historic District
- South Lee Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings and one National Register Structure listing in Lee.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate but has a minimal level of information. The only items included are: commission members with term expirations; meeting time, frequency and location; a physical address, and a link to the Lee Historical Society. Missing items that would improve the page are an overview of the commission mission and responsibilities; a general email address for the commission; links to documents, forms and bylaws; agenda & minutes; and local, state and national preservation resources. *The Town of Lee uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; advising boards and commissions; reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals; and undertaking a local historic district study.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission, and desire for more support or interest from the community.

Commission Successes

The commission was successful in passing the Community Preservation Act in 2020, however the committee has not yet been established. The town received a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant for Planning and Survey which is now in the process of being implemented.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Conducting a historic property survey; drafting of a preservation plan; passage of a demolition delay bylaw; and outreach programs.

Recommendations

The Town of Lee has an active historical commission which is in the process of completing a historic properties survey, and will begin engaging with the CPA proposal review process in the near future. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on municipal preservation plans, demolition delay bylaw development, local historic district establishment and administration, and effective outreach and education.

Town of Lenox

Commission Status

Historical Commission - active.

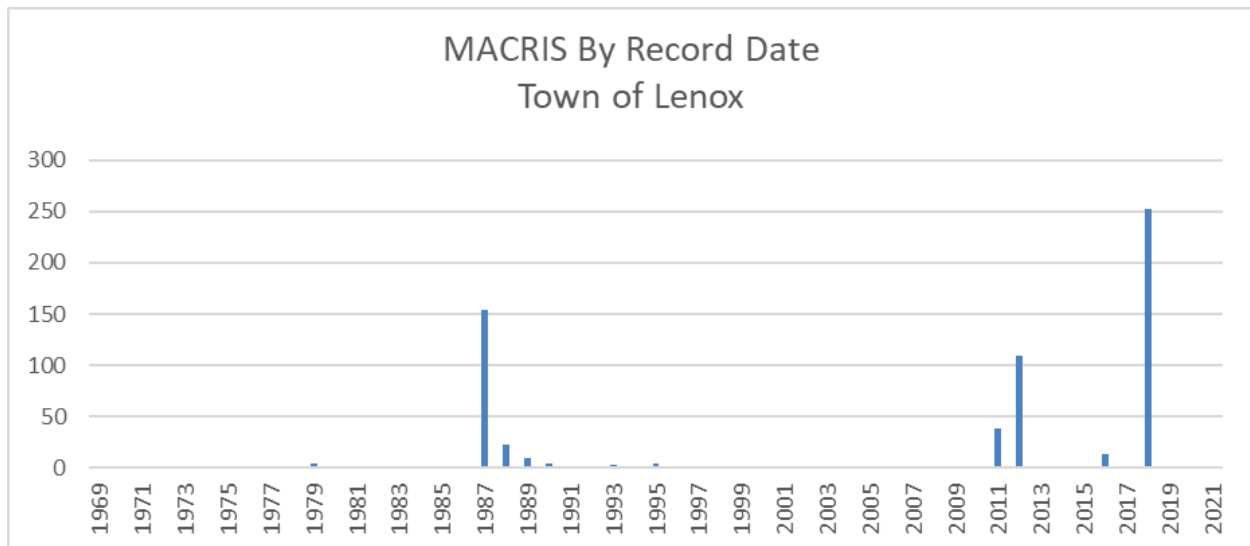
Historic District Commission - somewhat active.

Overview

Historical Commission - The Town of Lenox has a seven-member commission (with alternates) which meets as needed. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition, Preservation Massachusetts, and the Community Preservation Act Coalition. Historic preservation funding has been received through the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning grants* and *Community Preservation Act funds*.

Historic District Commission - The Town of Lenox has a five-member commission (with alternates) which meets as needed. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Lenox was prepared in the late-1980s; survey in the 2010s included significant updating, but the total inventory is still largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Lenox on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 425 buildings, 9 areas, 2 burial grounds, 11 structures and 10 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 125 of these records. A survey and planning grant was received in 2022, which will address current survey needs and help to bring the existing historic property inventory up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are three local historic districts in Lenox.

- Lenox Historic District
- Church on the Hill
- Trinity Episcopal Church

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Lenox.

- Ventfort Hall

National Register Individual Listings - There are eight National Register Individual Property listings in Lenox.

Webpage

Historical Commission - The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a very good level of information, including meeting day/time, frequency and location, as well as links to the demolition delay bylaw and the Historic House Plaque Program. Missing items that would improve the page are a general email address for the commission; a link to the Historic District Commission; a link to the Community Preservation Committee; and links to local, state and national preservation resources.

Historic District Commission - The Historic District Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has an excellent level of information, including links to the historic district bylaw, application for certificate of appropriateness, and historic district design guidelines. Missing items that would improve the page are a general email address for the commission, and updating titles and term expirations for commission members.

The Town of Lenox uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

12-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2006. Surcharge 3%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Historical Commission - the commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions; review of demolition permit requests; review of Community Preservation Act funding proposals; working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on current National Register nominations; undertaking a local historic district study; and seeking additional National Register designations.

Historic District Commission - The commission is currently responsible for review of Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

Commission Challenges

Historical Commission - Lack of municipal staff support, Time constraints.

Historic District Commission - Filling seats on the commission, desire for more support or interest from community, understanding direction, goals of commission, lack of knowledge base on commission.

Commission Successes

Historical Commission - Commissioned Cemetery Remediation Plan for Historic Church On The Hill Cemetery (COH); remediated 500 grave markers in COH (3year) project; replicated 14 Street Signs in HD; replicated 48 Westinghouse Street Lights in HD; installed plaque commemorating donors to the Westinghouse Street Lamp Project; commissioned Historical Preservation Plan (completed 2021); organized and supervised a year-long Lenox 250th Anniversary Celebration (1767-2017) with over 40 events; commissioned inventory of 106 Form Bs; enacted Demolition Delay Bylaw (effective in March 2021); continuation of inventory project for approximately an additional 100 historic building (grant RFP in process); installation of 34 historic building plaques with original building name and date of construction.

Historic District Commission - None reported.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Historical Commission - Conducting a historic property survey, National Register nominations, and Certified Local Government status for Lenox.

Historic District Commission - Revisions to current guidelines and possibly bylaw.

Recommendations

Historical Commission - The Lenox Historical Commission is active with a variety of responsibilities. The commission could benefit from trainings on historic property survey, working with local officials, and affirmative maintenance bylaw development.

Historic District Commission - The Lenox Historic District commission could benefit from trainings on understanding the role of a Local Historic District Commission, local historic district administration, and education and outreach.

Town of Monterey

Commission Status

Historical Commission - none.

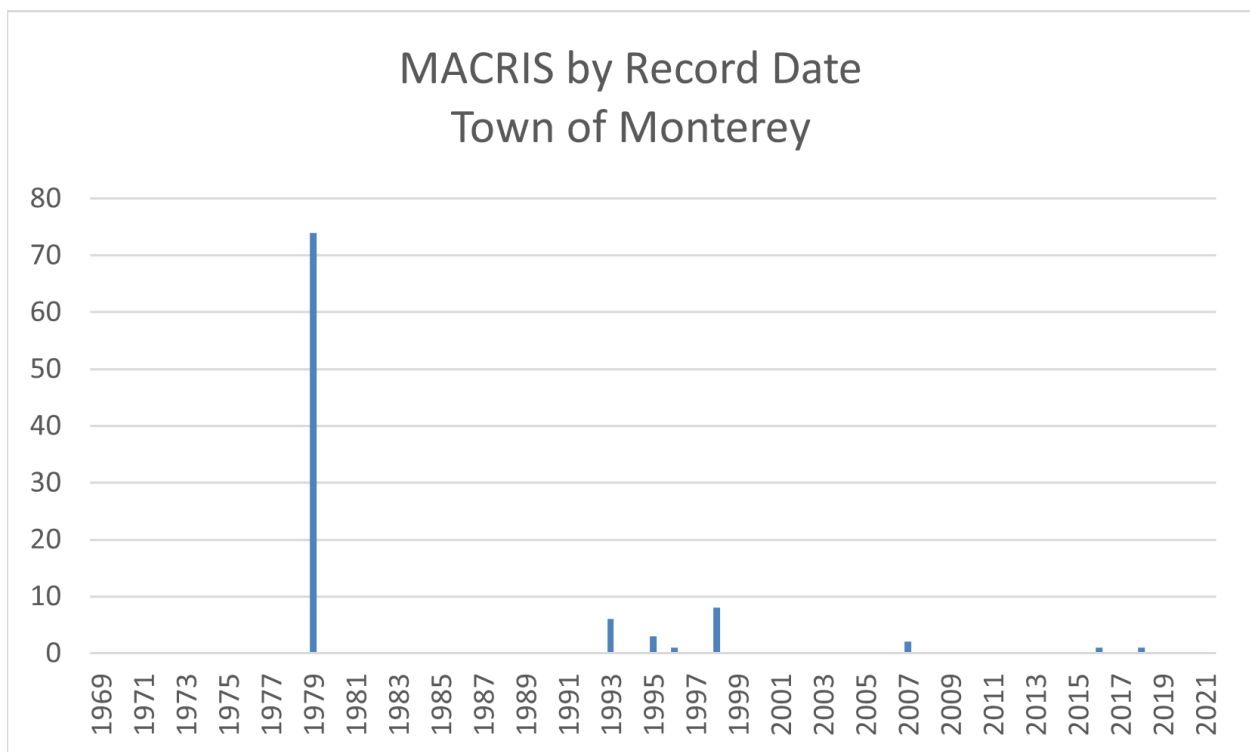
Historic District Commission - none.

Local Historic District Study Committee - active.

Overview

The Town of Monterey has voted to establish an historical commission, but currently no members have been appointed. The town has a seven-member local historic district study committee which meets once a month or more.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Monterey was prepared in 1979, and is out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Monterey on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 78

buildings, 5 areas, 4 burial grounds, 7 structures and 6 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 12 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Monterey.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Monterey.

- Bidwell, Rev. Adonijah, House

National Register Individual Listings - There are two National Register Individual Property listings in Monterey.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate but the commission does not currently have any appointed members. The webpage does list the members and term expirations of the local historic district Study Committee, and the page includes a meeting calendar, agendas and minutes for this committee. As there is currently no active historical or historic district commission, there are no missing items that would improve the page. *The Town of Monterey uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Mount Washington

Commission Status

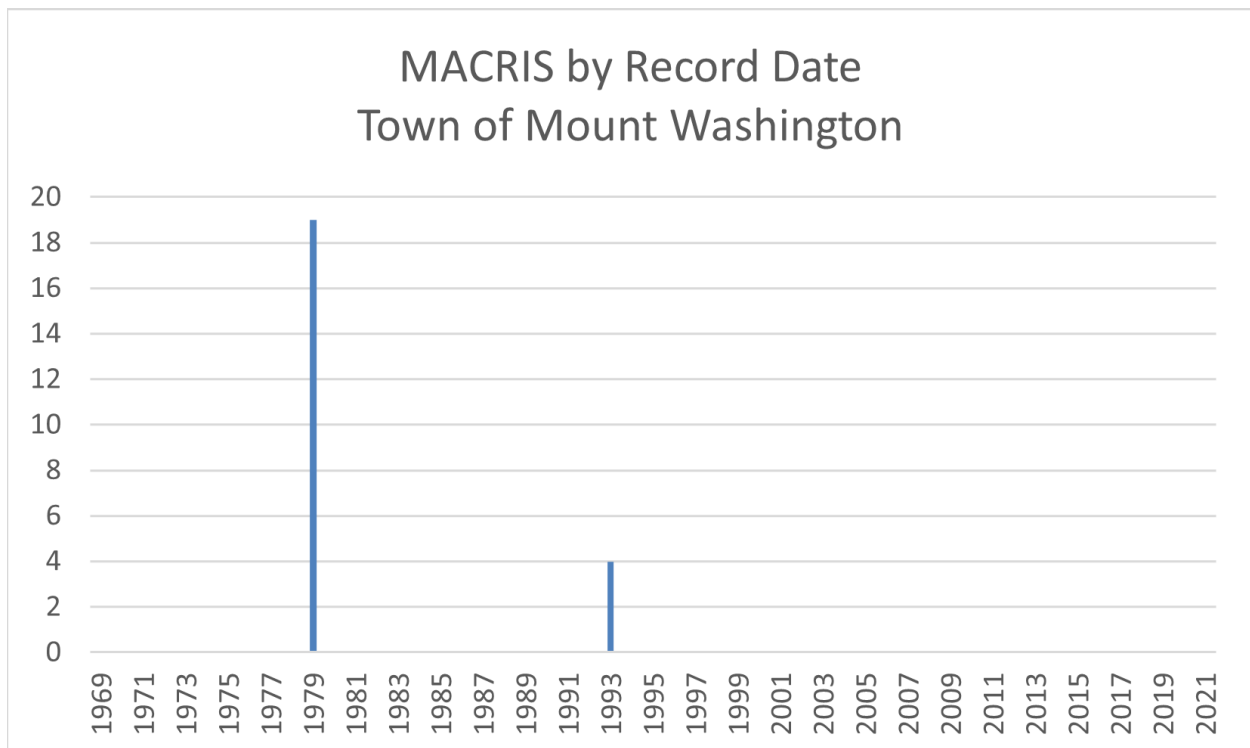
Historical Commission - somewhat active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Mount Washington has a three-member commission (with no alternates) which meets as needed at the request of the Select Board. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Mount Washington was prepared in 1979, and is out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Mount Washington on the Massachusetts Cultural

Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 17 buildings, 1 area, 3 burial grounds, 3 structures and no objects. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Mount Washington.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Mount Washington.

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing in Mount Washington.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is limited to a listing of commission members, with one email address. Missing items that would improve the page (which appear to be supportable on the platform based on other of the town's board/committee pages) are an overview including mission and responsibilities; meeting day/time, frequency, and location; term expiration dates; agendas and minutes; and links to local, state and national preservation resources. *The Town of Mount Washington does not use a standard platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission has no regular responsibilities but will meet at the request of the Select Board.

Commission Challenges

Lack of support or interest from community; understanding direction, goals of commission; lack of knowledge base on commission. The historical society is active and vibrant, and its work overshadows the work of the commission.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

As the commission only meets as requested by the town, there are no 5-year goals currently.

Commission Successes

As the majority of activities occur through the town's historical society (e.g., an upcoming event touring old boarding houses from the late 19th century), there are no recent successes to report for the historical commission.

Recommendations

The Town of Mount Washington Historical Commission is challenged by a lack of expertise on the commission combined with an historical society which addresses many of the issues that might otherwise be the responsibility of the historical commission. Recruiting a member of the historical society to serve on the commission might prove useful; in addition, the commission could benefit from trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, working with local officials, and the basics of historic preservation planning.

Town of New Ashford

Commission Status

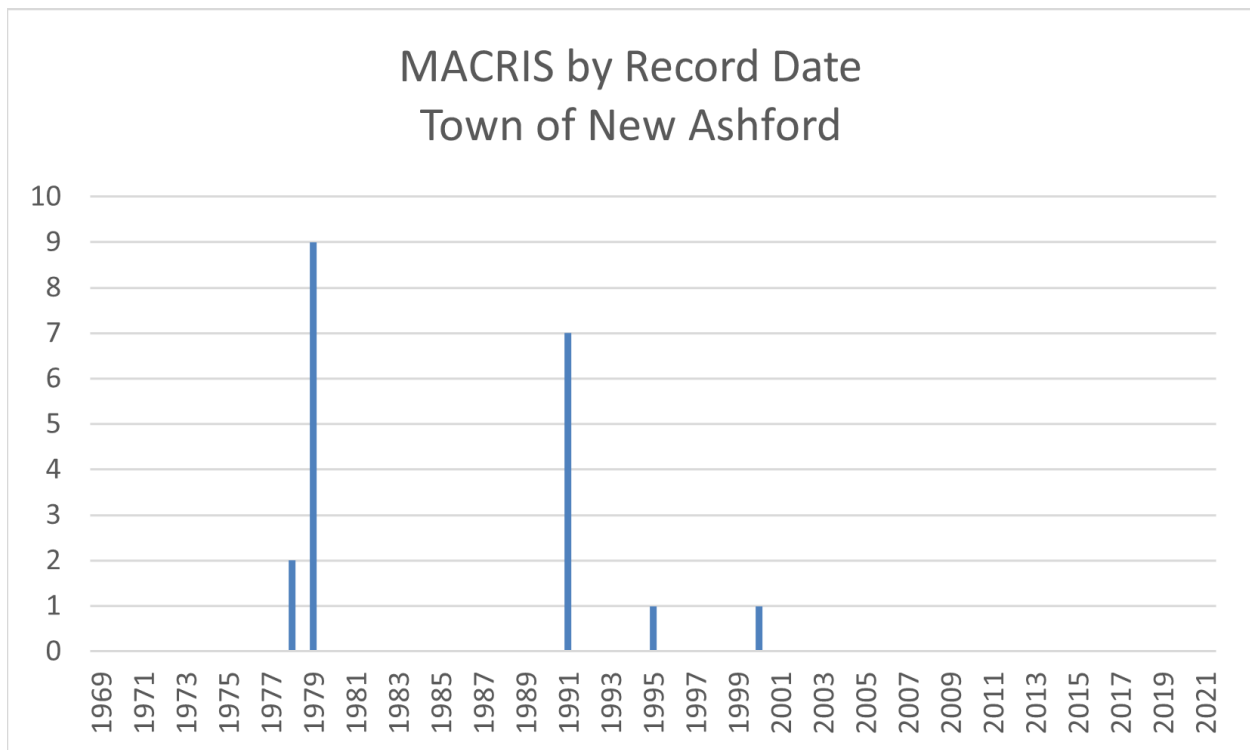
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of New Ashford Historical Commission has been inactive since August 2021. Little interest from the town led to the commission becoming inactive. The Commission may become active again in the near future.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of New Ashford was prepared in the late 1970s and early 1990s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of New Ashford on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 11 buildings, 3 areas, 1 burial ground, 8

structures and no objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 6 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in New Ashford.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in New Ashford.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in New Ashford.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage. *The Town of New Ashford uses the ThemesDNA platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Successes

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of New Marlborough

Commission Status

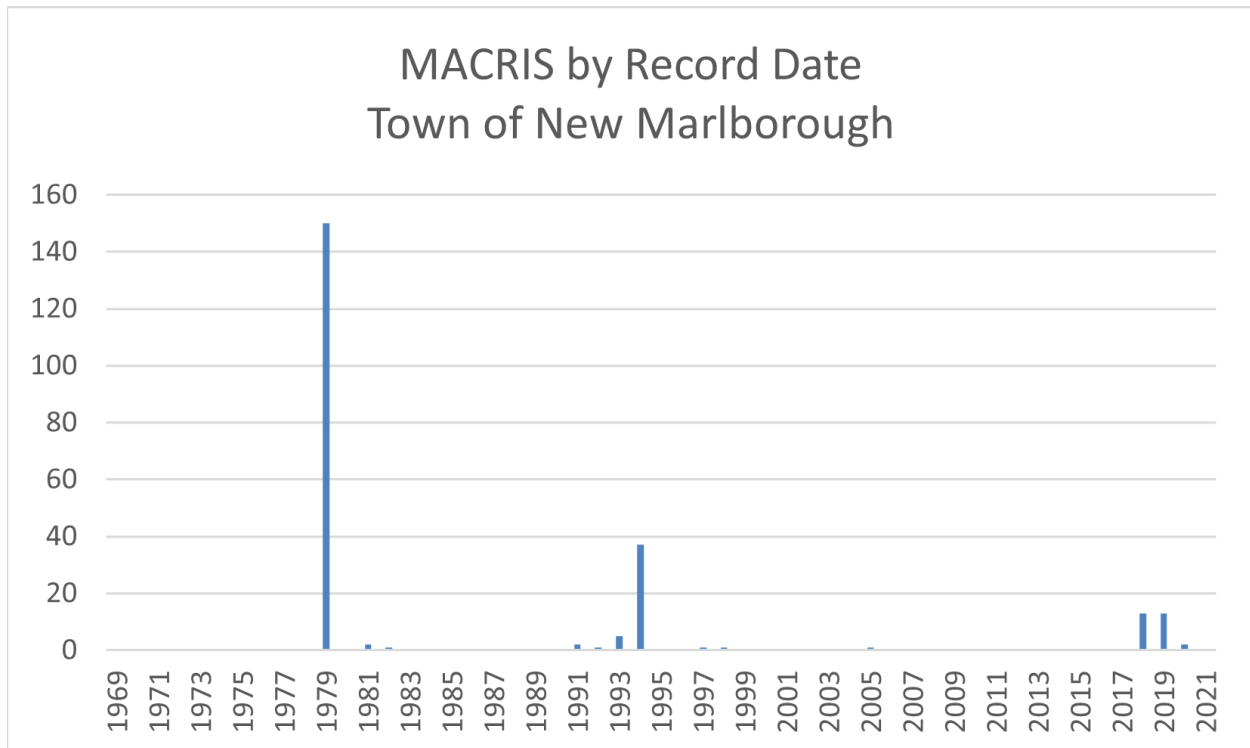
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of New Marlborough has a three-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month, but only for part of the year. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The overwhelming majority of the historic property survey for the Town of New Marlborough was prepared in the late 1970s and early 1990s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of

New Marlborough on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 182 buildings, 4 areas, 6 burial grounds, 21 structures and 3 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 55 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in New Marlborough.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in New Marlborough.

➤ New Marlborough Village

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing in New Marlborough.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate but has a minimal level of information; it does include a link to the demolition delay bylaw. Missing items that would improve the page are a listing of the commission's responsibilities; a general contact email and/or phone number for the commission; meeting day/time, frequency, and location; and links to local, state or national preservation resources. *The Town of New Marlborough uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

9-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for education and outreach regarding historic resources, advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions, and reviewing demolition permit applications.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission and a lack of funding.

Commission Successes

Passage of a demolition delay bylaw in 2022.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Updates to the preservation plan, National Register nominations

Recommendations

The Town of New Marlborough has an active historical commission, but members have not attended any trainings, and the historical survey is in need of update. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on the basics of historic preservation planning, historic property survey, municipal preservation plans, and National Register nominations.

City of North Adams

Commission Status

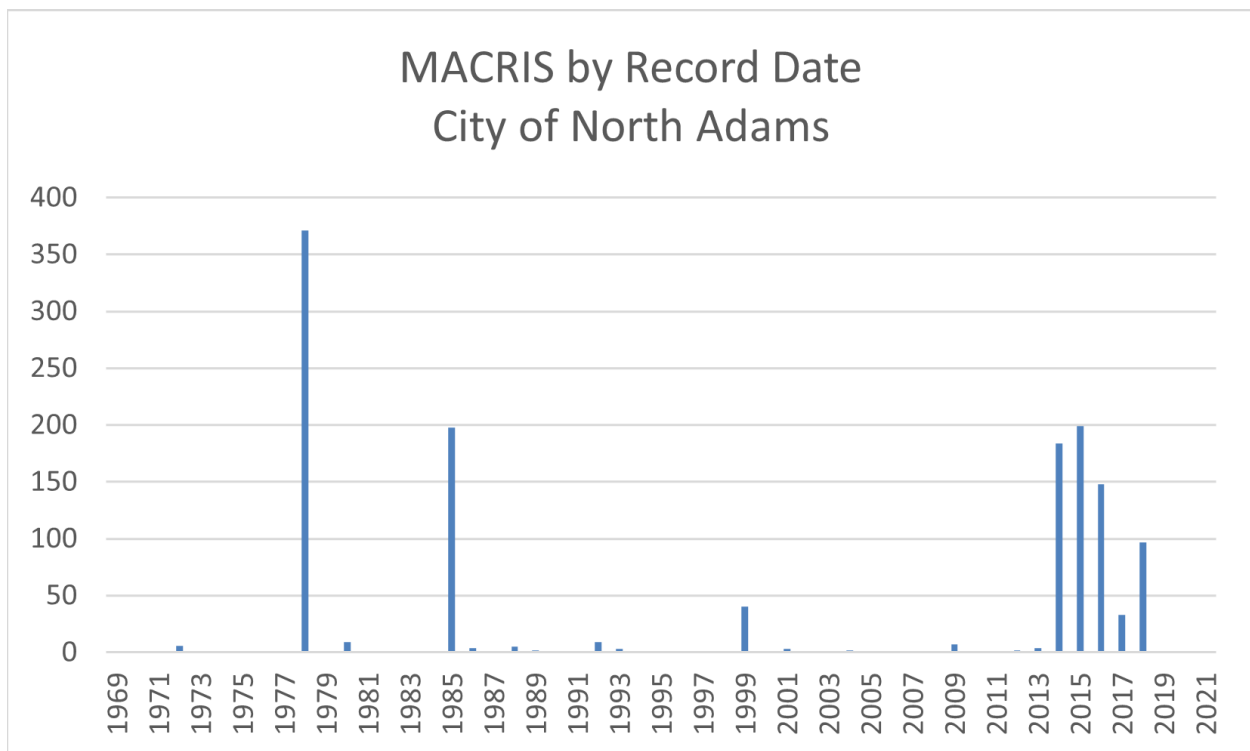
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The City of North Adams has a seven-member commission (with no alternates) which meets as needed. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition*. Historic preservation funding has been received through the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic Property Survey Status



Approximately half of the historic property survey for the City of North Adams was prepared in the late 1970s and early 1980s, with substantial additional survey and

updating from 2014 through 2018. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the City of North Adams on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 1141 buildings, 40 areas, 5 burial grounds, 34 structures and 38 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 468 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in North Adams.

National Register Districts - There are six National Register Districts in North Adams.

- Blackinton Historic District
- Church Street Historic District
- Freeman's Grove Historic District
- Freight Yard Historic District
- Monument Square-Eagle Street Historic District
- Normal School Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are six National Register Individual Property listings and one National Register Site listing in North Adams.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a very good level of information, including a comprehensive overview and links to local and state preservation resources. Missing items that would improve the page are a link to the demolition delay bylaw; and additional local, state and national preservation resources.

The City of North Adams uses the Revize platform for its website.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

12-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the city's historic property inventory; advising boards and commissions; reviewing demolition permit applications; working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations; and undertaking a local historic district study.

Commission Challenges

The commission spends too high a percentage of time on demolition application permits.

Commission Successes

Listing of over 900 properties in the city's historic resource inventory, and a demolition delay ordinance with a 12-month delay.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

National Register nomination for "The Wigwam" and getting a Local Historic District Study Committee up and running.

Recommendations

The City of North Adams has an active historical commission with a variety of responsibilities, and has been consistently updating its historic property inventory in the last decade. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on demolition delay bylaw administration, local historic district establishment, and National Register nominations.

Town of Otis

Commission Status

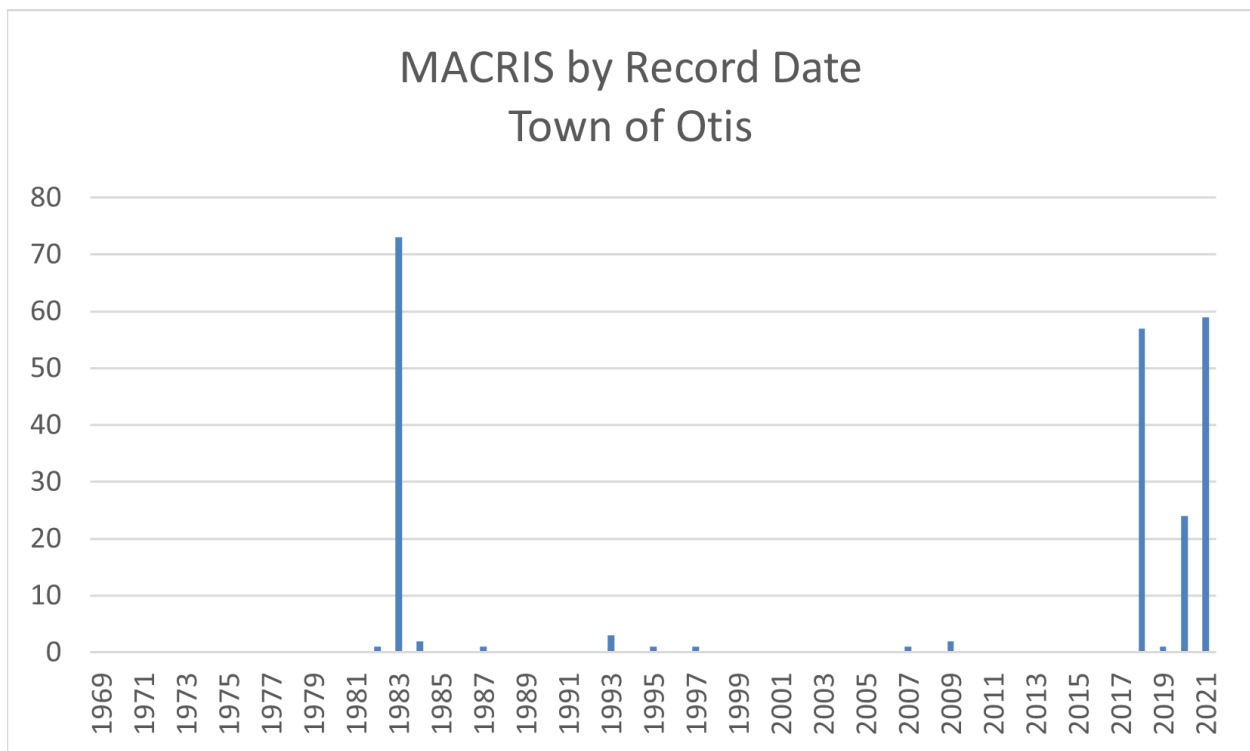
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Otis has a five-member commission (with alternates), which meets twice a month. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission* and the *Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition*. Historic preservation funding has been received through the *Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund*.

Historic Property Survey Status



About half of the historic property survey for the Town of Otis was prepared in the early 1980s. Additional survey and updating was completed in 2018, 2020 and 2021,

however a significant portion of earlier records are out of date. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Otis on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 95 buildings, 3 areas, 6 burial grounds, 23 structures and 9 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 72 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Otis.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Otis. *The Otis Center Historic District was approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 2022, and is pending approval by the National Park Service.*

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Individual Property listing in Otis.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a very good level of information, including a section for Historical Commission News, and links to a number of local, state and national preservation resources. Missing items that would improve the page are commissioner titles; and links to any plans, surveys or inventories that have been completed. *The Town of Otis uses the Prospect Marketing platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board; working with Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations; and undertaking a local historic district study.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission and time constraints.

Commission Successes

Fundraising efforts, community outreach.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Conducting a historic property survey, National Register nominations, establishing a preservation awards program, and outreach programs.

Recommendations

The Town of Otis has an active historical commission, but the historical survey is in need of update. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on historic property survey, National Register nominations, and effective outreach and education.

Town of Peru

Commission Status

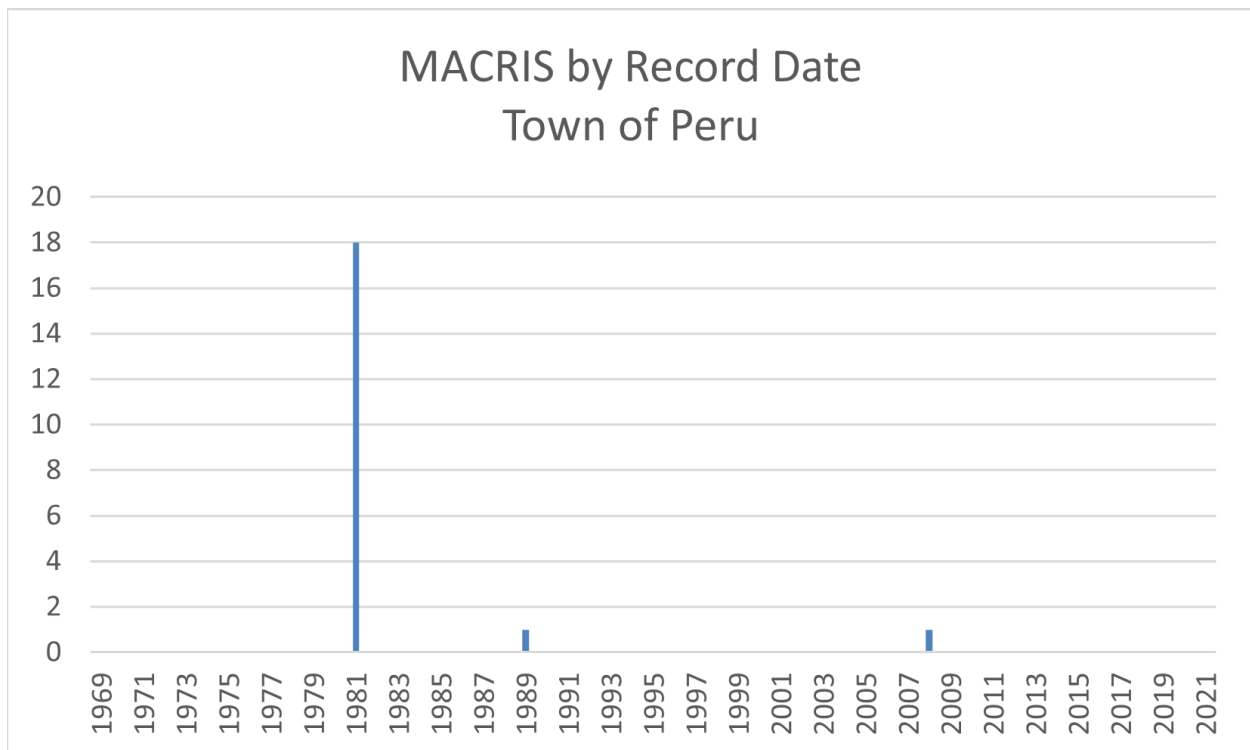
Historical Commission - somewhat active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Peru has a five-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month, but only for part of the year. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Peru was prepared in 1981. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Peru on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource

Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 14 buildings, 1 area, 4 burial grounds, 1 structure and 1 object. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Peru.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Peru.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Peru.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a good level of information, including a thorough overview, an email address for the commission chair, and numerous links related to local history. Missing items that would improve the page are a contact telephone number, meeting day/time, frequency and location; and links to local, state and national preservation resources. *The Town of Peru uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for education and outreach regarding historic resources, and advising boards and commissions.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission; commission members not agreeing; a desire for more support or interest from the community; and time constraints.

Commission Successes

Creating the 250th medallion for the town celebration and updating the town history book.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

The commission has not currently established any 5-year goals.

Recommendations

The Town of Peru historical commission does not currently have long-term goals, and the historical survey is in need of update. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, basics of preservation planning, historic property survey, and effective outreach and education.

City of Pittsfield

Commission Status

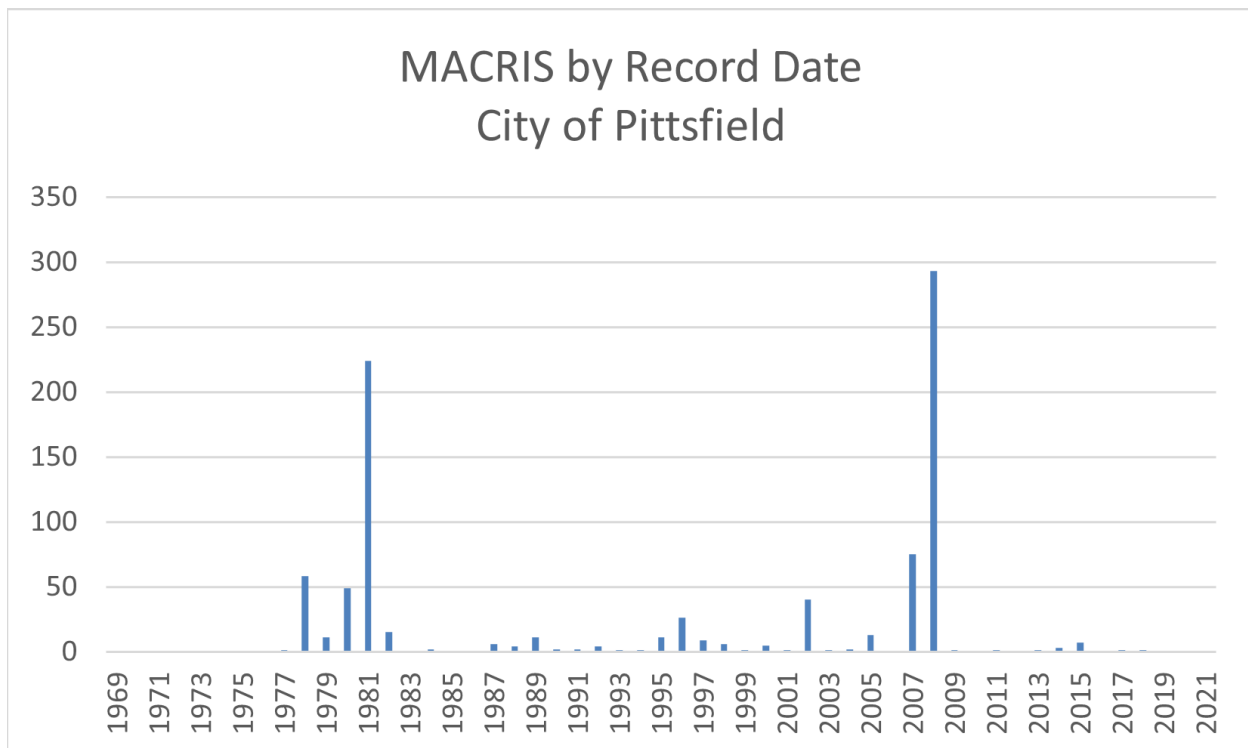
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The City of Pittsfield has a seven-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month, but only for part of the year. The staff liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *CPA Coalition*, the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*, and the *Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition*. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds* and the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic Property Survey Status



Approximately half of the historic property survey for the City of Pittsfield was prepared prior to the year 2000, with an additional survey completed in 2008, but without significant updating. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the City of Pittsfield on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 756 buildings, 30 areas, 9 burial grounds, 81 structures and 76 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 388 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs, including updates to existing records.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Pittsfield.

National Register Districts - There are four National Register Districts in Pittsfield.

- Eaton, Crane & Pike Company Factory
- Park Square Historic District
- Springside Park
- Upper North Street Commercial District

National Register Individual Listings - There are 10 National Register Individual Property listings and two National Register Site listings in Pittsfield.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage. The level of information for the commission available on other parts of the city website is minimal, and is limited to the mission, roster of members (term expirations are out-of-date), and staff liaison contact information. Information for the commission is very challenging to navigate, as it is spread out between multiple pages devoted to all boards and commissions. The *Revize* platform can support dedicated pages for commissions, although the formatting for existing commission pages is not consistent or easy to navigate. A well-organized, dedicated webpage for the commission would greatly improve access for visitors to the site, and should include a thorough overview (including mission and responsibilities); links to applicable documents, forms and bylaws; agendas and minutes; day/time, frequency and location of meetings; a link to the Community Preservation Committee webpage; links to local, state and national preservation resources; and links to city history, if applicable. *The City of Pittsfield uses the Revize platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

6-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2016. Surcharge 1%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for reviewing demolition permit applications; reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals; and education regarding historic resources.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission and a desire for more support or interest from community.

Commission Successes

Completed an endangered properties casebook and a virtual walking tour of downtown Pittsfield.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

National Register nominations and establishing a preservation awards program.

Recommendations

The City of Pittsfield has an active historical commission with a variety of responsibilities. The historic property survey is reasonably up-to-date but could be reviewed to assess current survey needs. The commission has attended a variety of trainings, but given current goals might benefit from attending trainings on National Register nominations, and effective education and outreach.

Town of Richmond

Commission Status

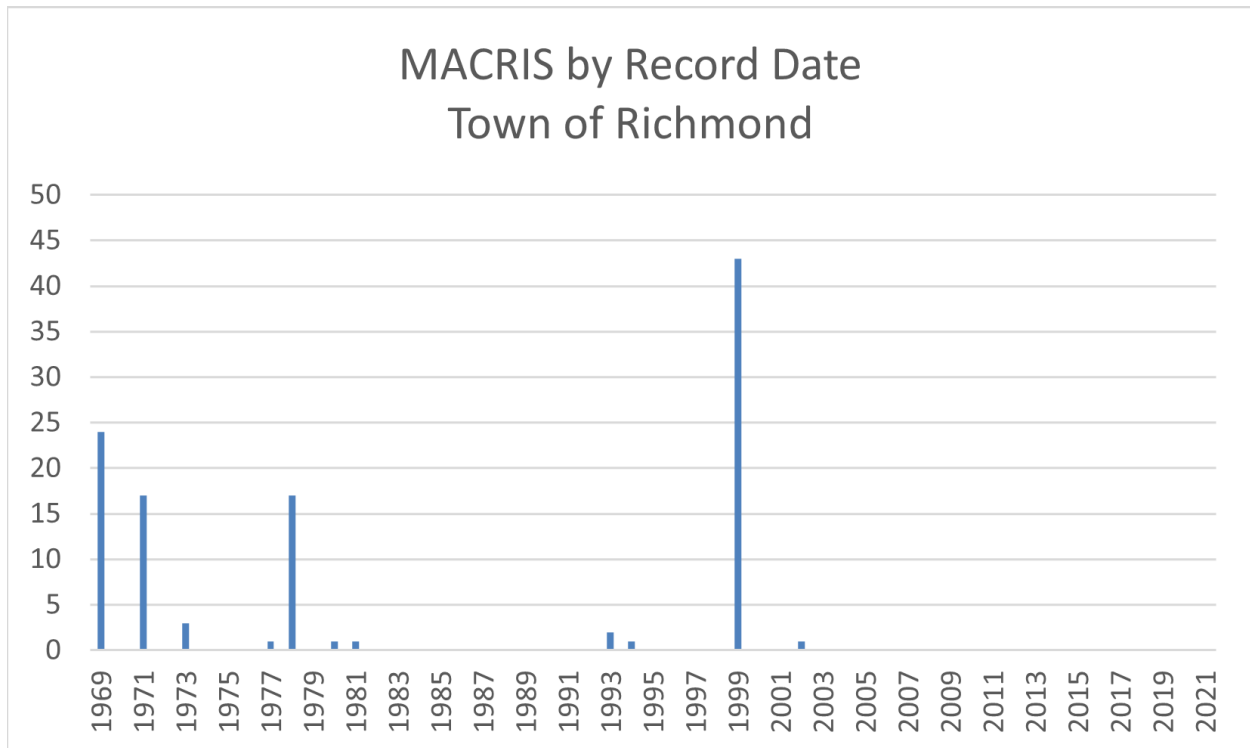
Historical Commission - somewhat active (temporarily inactive due to COVID-19).

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Richmond has a seven-member historical commission (with no alternates). The commission is temporarily inactive due to COVID-19 concerns and technical issues with meeting remotely. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. Historic preservation funds were applied for but not awarded.

Historic Property Survey Status



Approximately half of the historic property survey for the Town of Richmond was prepared in the 1970s, with the remainder completed in the late 1990s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the

Town of Richmond on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 95 buildings, 2 areas, 4 burial grounds, 10 structures and 3 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 37 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Richmond.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Richmond.

- Richmond Furnace Historical and Archeological District

National Register Individual Listings - There are five National Register Individual Property listings in Richmond.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate but has a minimal level of information, limited to the mission and responsibilities; meeting frequency and location; and list of members (no term expirations are listed). Missing items that would improve the page are a general email for the commission; agendas and minutes; term expirations; links to local, state and national resources; and links to local history, if applicable. *The Town of Richmond uses the Revize platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; and advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions.

Commission Challenges

Lack of support or interest from community; a desire for more municipal staff support; a lack of knowledge base on commission; and insufficient computer skills.

Commission Successes

Assisting with getting several houses on the National Register. Ongoing assistance to townspeople in finding out more about their property.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Conducting a historic property survey and outreach programs.

Recommendations

The Town of Richmond Historical Commission has been inactive recently due to technological challenges posed by meeting remotely, and is also challenged by lack of a knowledge base on the commission. The commission could benefit by attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, basics of historic preservation planning, historic property survey, working with local officials, and effective outreach and education.

Town of Sandisfield

Commission Status

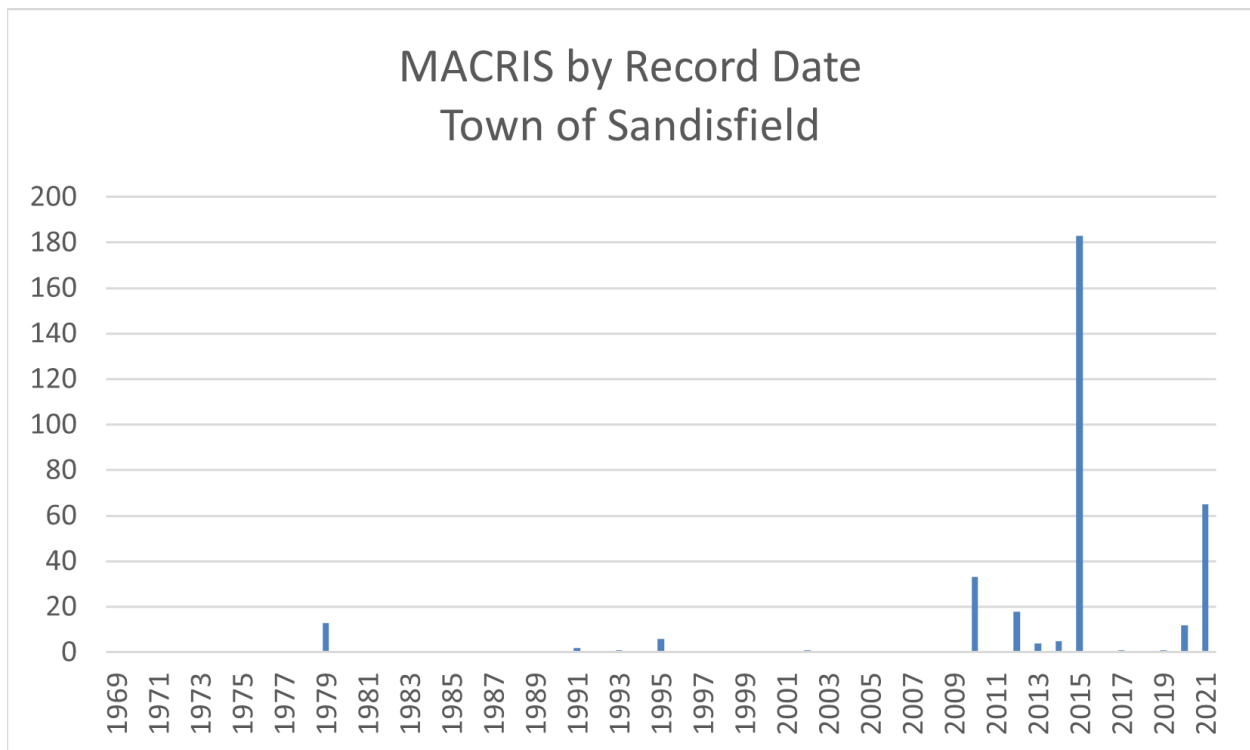
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Sandisfield has a five-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. Historic preservation funding has been received through the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Sandisfield was prepared in the last decade. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Sandisfield on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

(MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 236 buildings, 9 areas, 6 burial grounds, 24 structures and 9 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 155 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Sandisfield.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Sandisfield. *The New Boston Village Historic District was approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 2022, and is pending approval by the National Park Service.*

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings in Sandisfield.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and while it has only a fair level of information, it does include a thorough overview and the ability to directly submit an inquiry to each individual commissioner. Missing items that would improve the page are term expirations for commissioners; a general email contact for the commission; meeting day/time, frequency and location; links to local, state and national preservation resources; and links to local history, if applicable. *The Town of Sandisfield uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

**This webpage includes a useful paragraph outlining the distinction between historical commissions, historical societies, and historical districts, which other commissions might consider adding to their overview section.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board; and working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations.

Commission Challenges

The commission is not experiencing challenges at this time.

Commission Successes

The Massachusetts Historical Commission approval of New Boston Village National Register Historic District in 2022.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

National Register nominations.

Recommendations

The Town of Sandisfield has an active historical commission which does not report any current challenges, and the historical property survey is reasonably up to date. The commission reports not having attended any trainings however, and might benefit from doing so for any areas which they feel their knowledge base is lacking.

Town of Savoy

Commission Status

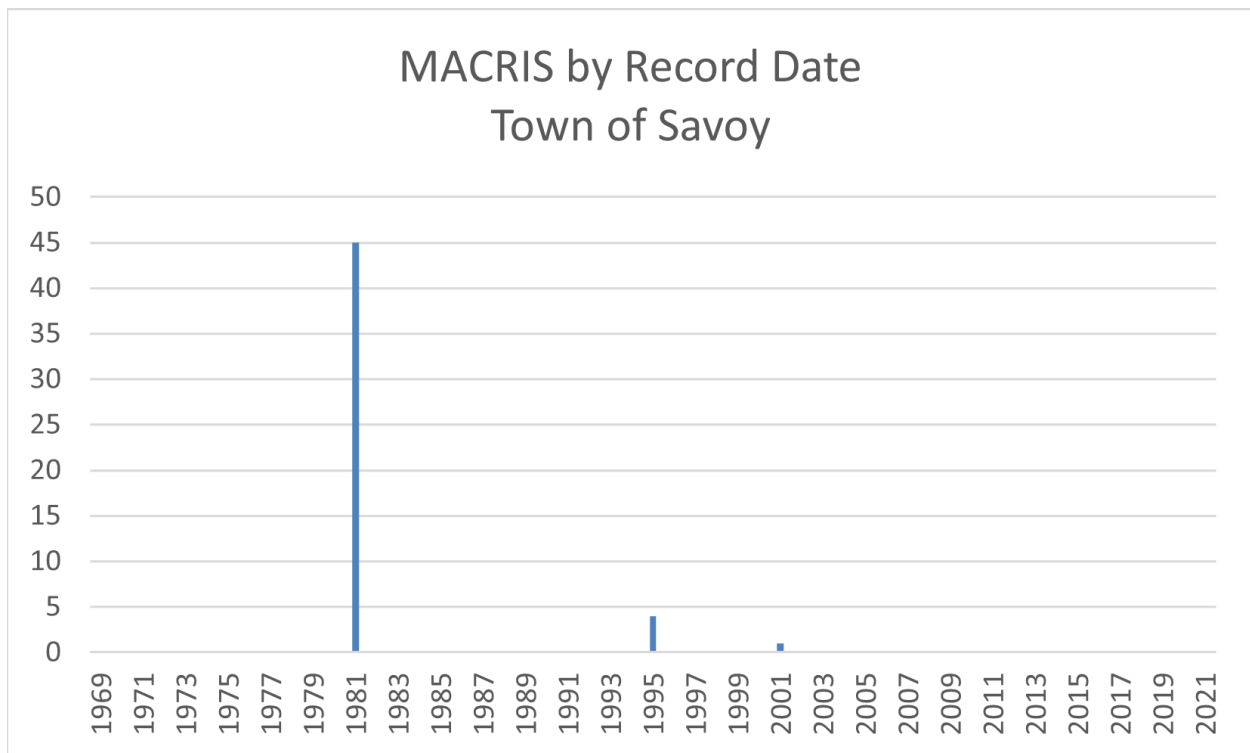
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Savoy's Historical Commission is inactive. No further information is available.

Historic Property Survey Status



The overwhelming majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Savoy was prepared in 1981, and is now out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Savoy on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 29 buildings, 1 area, 20 burial grounds, 2 structures and no objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 4 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to

determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Savoy.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Savoy.

National Register Individual Listings - There is one National Register Site listing in Savoy.

Webpage

The Historical Commission is inactive and there is no webpage for the commission. *The Town of Savoy uses the WordPress platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Successes

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Sheffield

Commission Status

Historical Commission - active.

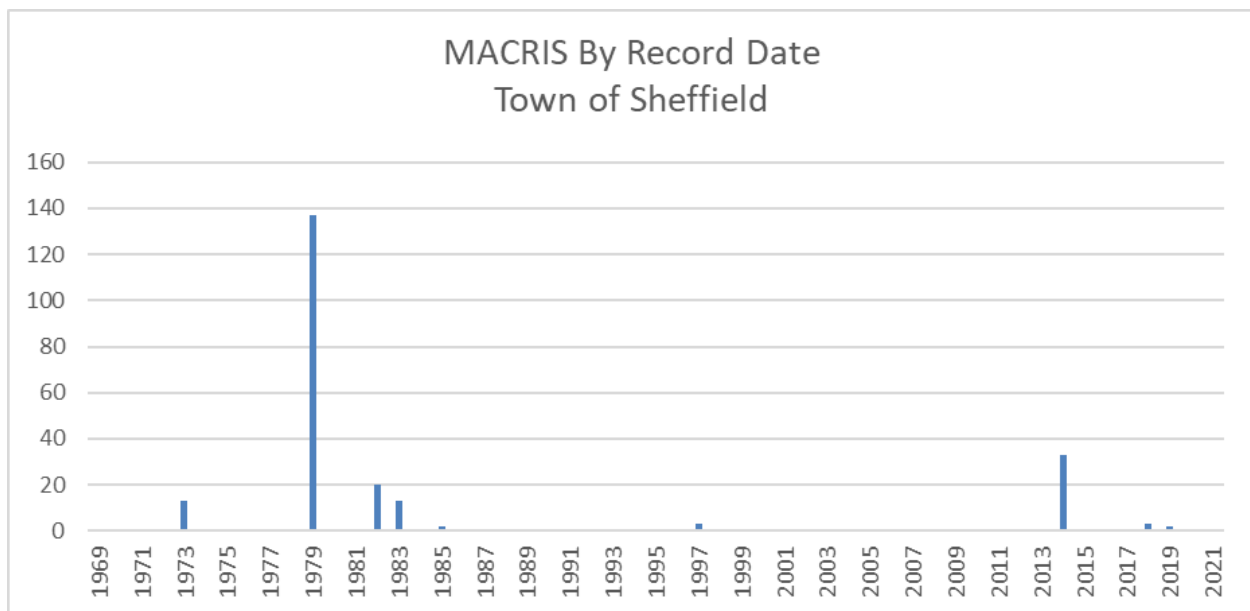
Historic District Commission - active.

Overview

Historical Commission - The Town of Sheffield has a five-member commission (with no alternates) which meets as needed. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic District Commission - The Town of Sheffield has a five-member commission (with alternates) which meets monthly, and more often when necessary. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the last five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The overwhelming majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Sheffield was prepared in the 1970s and early 1980s, and is now out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Sheffield on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 258 buildings, 5 areas, 11 burial grounds, 14 structures and 13 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 3 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There is one local historic district in Sheffield.

- Ashley Falls Historic District

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Sheffield.

- Sheffield Center Historic District
- Sheffield Plain Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are two National Register Individual Property listings, one National Register Site listing and one National Register Structure listing in Sheffield.

Webpage

Historical Commission - The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a fair level of information, including a list of commission members (term expirations are missing), agendas and minutes, a link to the local historic district webpage, and links to local and state preservation resources. Missing items that would improve the page are a thorough overview including mission and responsibilities; links to applicable documents, forms and bylaws; commission term expirations; a general email contact for the commission; meeting day/time, frequency and location; and additional links to local, state and national preservation resources.

Historic District Commission - The Historic District Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a good level of information, including links to the historic district bylaw, design guidelines, and application for certificate of appropriateness. Missing items that would improve the page are specific responsibilities of the commission in the overview; commission term expirations; meeting day/time, frequency, and location; and additional links to local, state and national preservation resources.

The Town of Sheffield uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.

Demolition Delay Bylaw

12-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Historical Commission - The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising the Select Board; reviewing demolition permit applications; reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals; working with Massachusetts Historical Commission on National Register nominations; and partnering with the Sheffield Historical Society.

Historic District Commission - The commission is currently responsible for education and outreach regarding historic resources; reviewing Certificate of Appropriateness applications; and educating property owners of requirements under local historic district bylaw.

Commission Challenges

Historical Commission - Filling seats on the commission, a desire for more municipal staff support, lack of funding and time constraints.

Historic District Commission - Lack of municipal staff support, time constraints, and a desire for more support from the Select Board.

Commission Successes

Historical Commission - Passage of a demolition delay bylaw.

Historic District Commission - Publication of handbook and design guidelines for the district.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Historical Commission - Education to better understand the direction and role of the commission.

Historic District Commission - Making all property owners within the district aware of their obligations.

Recommendations

Historical Commission - The Town of Sheffield has an active historical commission with a variety of responsibilities, but that is in need of clarity on their role. The historical property survey is out-of-date and in need of a thorough review. To help them better define their role and establish long-term goals, the commission could benefit from attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, basics of preservation planning, working with local officials, and historic property survey.

Historic District Commission - The Town of Sheffield's historic district commission could benefit from attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historic district commission, and working with local officials.

Town of Stockbridge

Commission Status

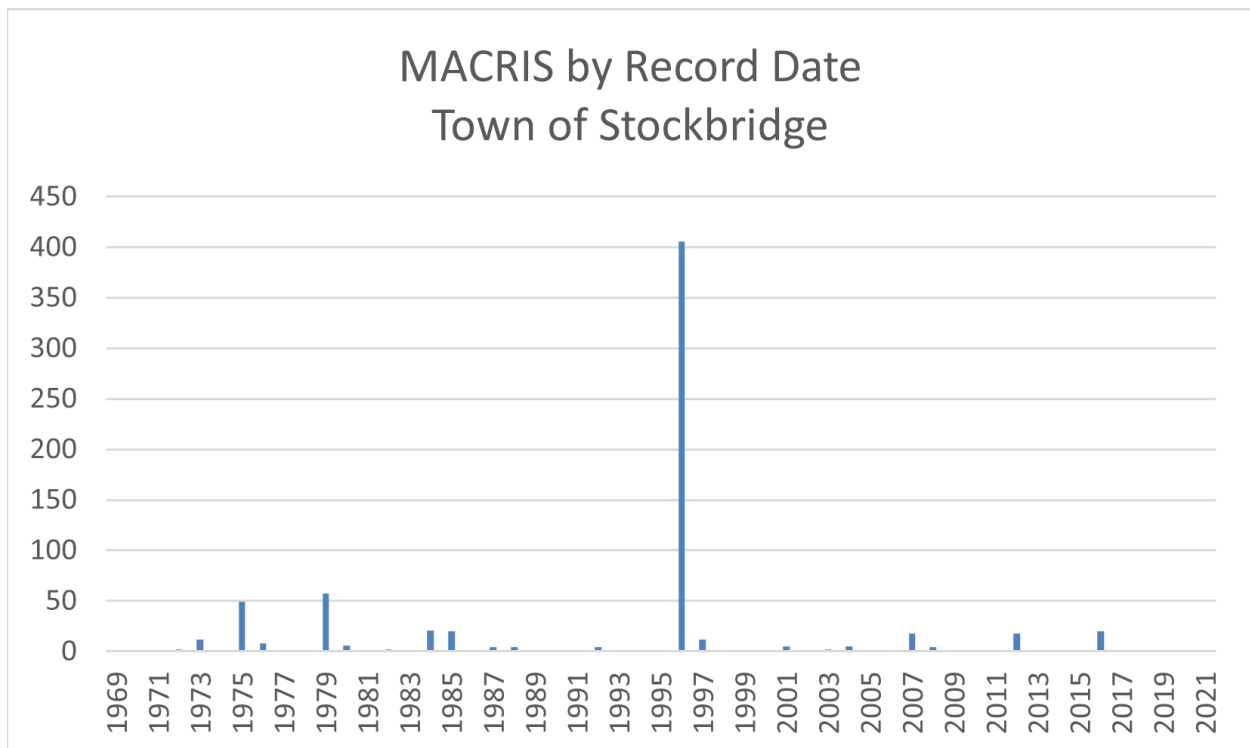
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Stockbridge has a three-member commission (with no alternates) which meets as needed. The commission is responsible for facilitating meetings and writing minutes, and the town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, and posting minutes. The commission has attended trainings offered by the *Massachusetts Historical Commission*. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds*, the *Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grants*, and the *Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Stockbridge was prepared in 1996, and is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Stockbridge on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 579 buildings, 28 areas, 6 burial grounds, 53 structures and 26 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 234 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Stockbridge.

National Register Districts - There are eight National Register Districts in Stockbridge.

- Chesterwood
- Elm-Maple-South Streets Historic District
- Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio (listed in both Stockbridge and Lenox) site
- Glendale Power House
- Main Street Historic District
- Naumkeag
- Old Curtisville Historic District
- Shadow Brook Farm Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are four National Register Individual Property listings in Stockbridge.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage does not have its own webpage, and information available on the Boards and Committees page is limited to mission, a brief statement of purpose, listing of commissioners (without term expirations), and a link to agendas and minutes. The nature of the platform makes adding additional information challenging, but missing items that could be added and that would improve the page are more detail regarding the commission's responsibilities; commissioner term expirations; meeting day/time; frequency and location; and links to local, state or national preservation resources. *The Town of Stockbridge uses a non-standard platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

12-month delay (must show effort to market the property for 12 months)

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2002. Surcharge 3%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; advising boards and commissions; reviewing demolition permit applications; reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals; and when consulted, advising and participating on Town historic entity projects.

Commission Challenges

Lack of support or interest from the community. The commission currently has no inclusion in planning and zoning issues nor with "ad hoc" committees created by the Select Board. Such committees often address projects of historic "restoration" of Town landmarks, but the historical commission is rarely included.

Commission Successes

The adoption of the Community Preservation Act early on brought new attention to the historic sites in the town; currently 75-80% of applications to the Community Preservation Committee are for historic preservation.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Conducting a historic property survey; drafting of a preservation plan; National Register nominations; continued collaboration with the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Community on archaeology and National Register nomination amendments.

Recommendations

The Town of Stockbridge has an active historical commission with a variety of responsibilities. The historical property survey is out-of-date and in need of review and updating. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on working with local officials, historic property survey, municipal preservation plans, and National register nominations.

Town of Tyringham

Commission Status

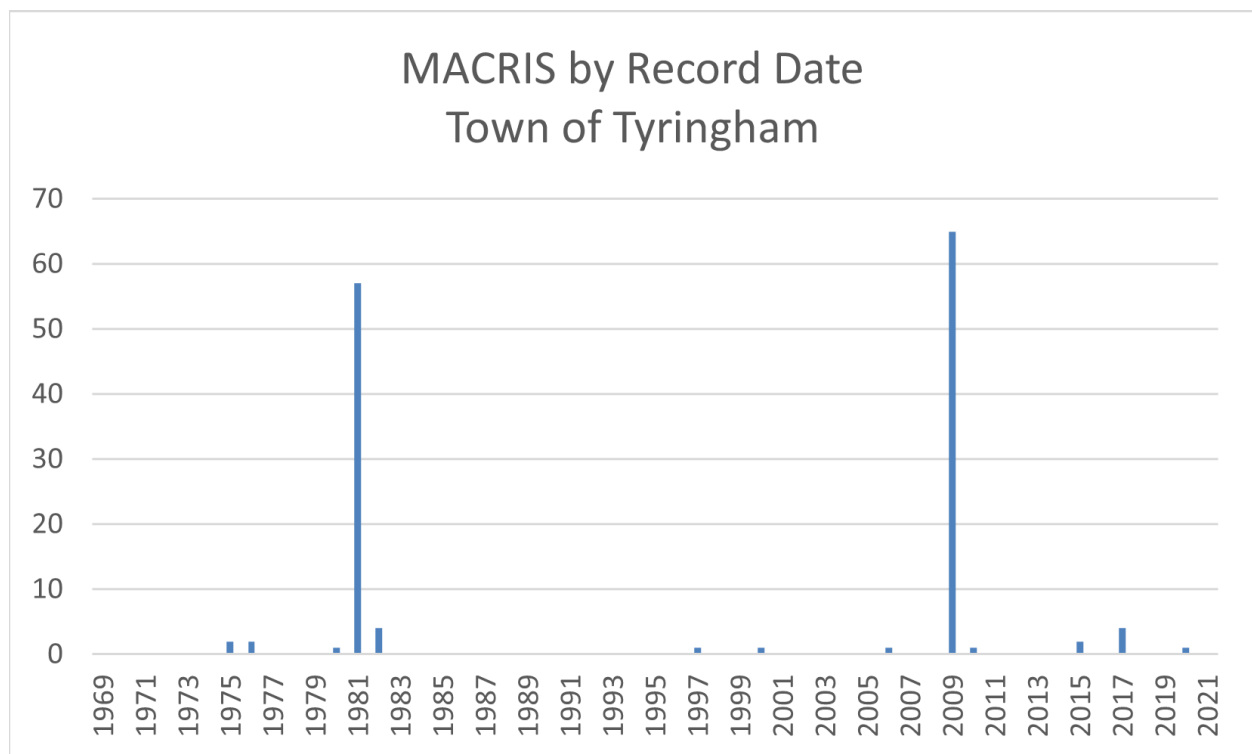
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Tyringham has a five-member commission which meets monthly, but only for part of the year. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission is run collaboratively, and so operates without a Chair or Vice Chair. Responsibilities for running meetings and note-taking are rotated. The commission has not participated in any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the last five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Tyringham was prepared in the late 1970s and early 1980s. A 2009 survey focused exclusively on

Tyringham Cemetery. The inventory is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Tyringham on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 76 buildings, 5 areas, 2 burial grounds, 16 structures and 67 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 67 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Tyringham.

National Register Districts - There is one National Register District in Tyringham.

- Tyringham Shaker Settlement Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings and one National Register Site listing in Tyringham.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate and has a good level of information, including the regular meeting day and location (meeting time not included) and a News & Announcements module. Missing items that would improve the page are a general contact email for the commission; updates to the commission members list (one commission and two alternates lack names); the time of regular commission meetings; and links to local, state and national preservation resources. *The Town of Tyringham uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

12-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving historic property inventory; advising the Select Board; and reviewing demolition permit applications.

Commission Challenges

Understanding the direction and goals of the commission.

Commission Successes

The commission is in the process of repatriation of Native American objects from a variety of nations in the continental U.S.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Finding a healthy 'home' for the town's collection.

Recommendations

The Town of Tyringham has an active historical commission which is in need of clarity and direction in its role. The town's historical property survey is largely out-of-date and in need of review and updating. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, basics of preservation planning, and historic property survey.

Town of Washington

Commission Status

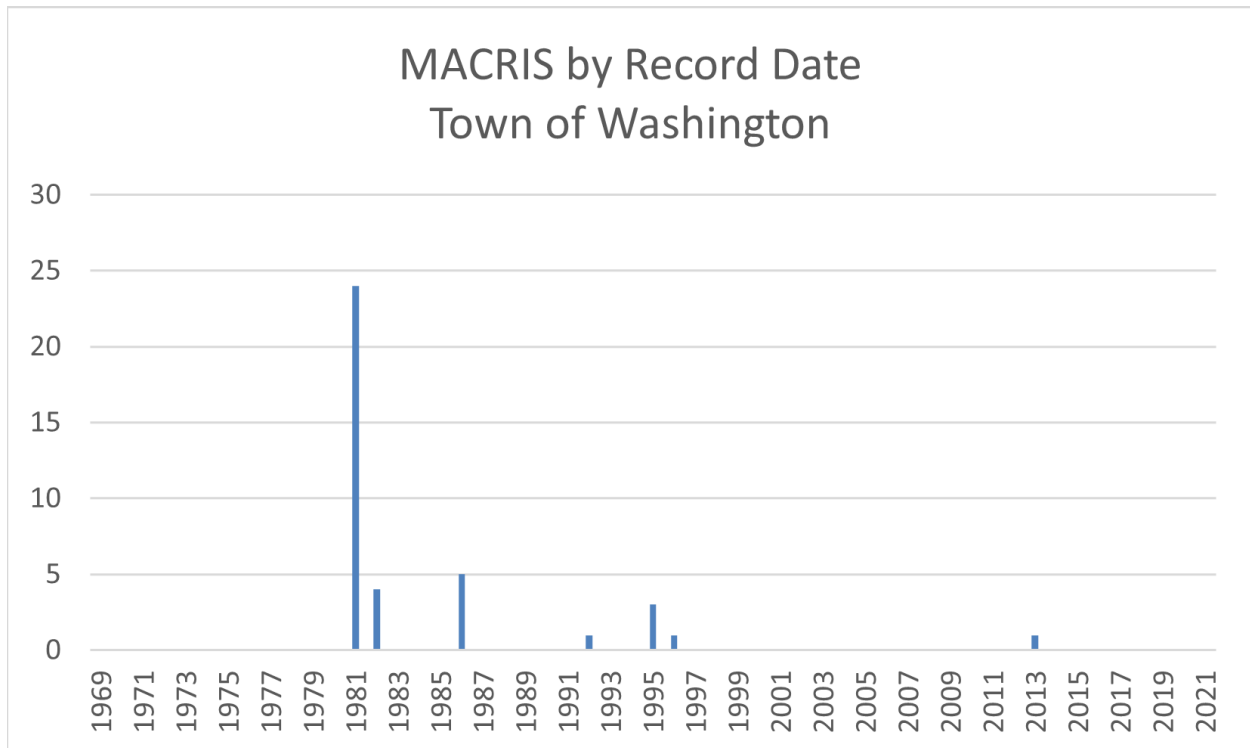
Historical Commission - somewhat active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Washington has a five-member commission (with no alternates) which meets once a month. The commission is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. The commission is not aware of any historic preservation funding received within the past five years.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Washington was prepared in the early 1980s. It is now out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Washington on the Massachusetts

Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 28 buildings, 4 areas, 4 burial grounds, 5 structures and 2 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 8 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Washington.

National Register Districts - There are two National Register Districts in Washington.

- Upper Historic District
- Lower Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are five National Register Individual Property listings in Washington.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate, with a fair level of information, including a thorough overview and links to submit an inquiry directly to the chair and one additional member. Missing items that would improve the page are an agendas and minutes module; a general email to contact the commission; links to local, state and national resources; and a calendar module. *The Town of Washington uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; education and outreach regarding historic resources; and advising boards and commissions.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission; a desire for more municipal staff support; lack of funding; and a lack of knowledge base on the commission.

Commission Successes

Continued on-line archiving of photos, and record-keeping of inventory, with as much description as possible.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Drafting a preservation plan, outreach programs, and continued cemetery preservation.

Recommendations

The Town of Washington has an active historical commission which is in need of clarity and direction in its role. The town's historical property survey is largely out-of-date and in need of review and updating. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on working with local officials, basics of preservation planning, historic property survey, municipal preservation plans, and effective outreach and education.

Town of West Stockbridge

Commission Status

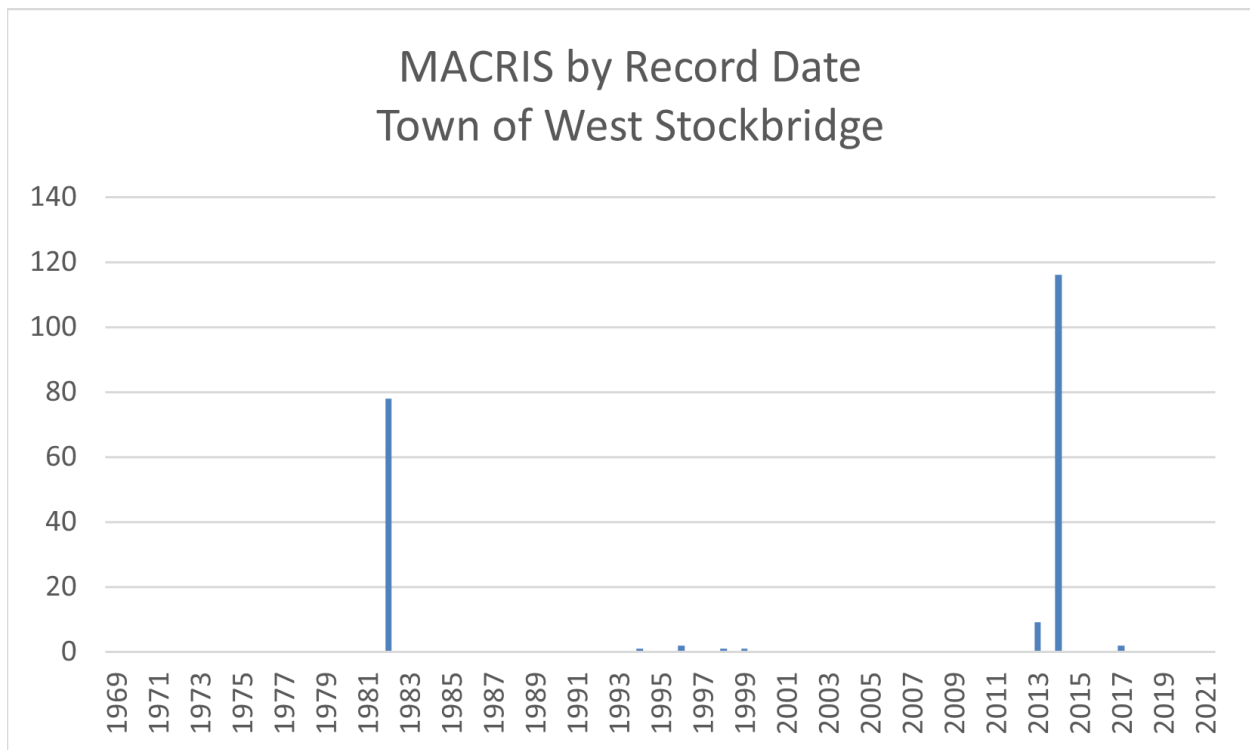
Historical Commission - inactive.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The town of West Stockbridge Historical Commission has been inactive for five years. A lack of members led to the commission becoming inactive. The Commission plans to become active again in the near future.

Historic Property Survey Status



Approximately half of the historic property survey for the Town of West Stockbridge was prepared in 1982, with most of the remainder completed in the mid-2010s. A significant portion of the inventory is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of West Stockbridge on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are

records for approximately 188 buildings, 8 areas, 3 burial grounds, 10 structures and 2 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 64 of these records. A review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs, including updating existing records.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in West Stockbridge.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in West Stockbridge.

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings in West Stockbridge.

Webpage

Although currently inactive, the town maintains a webpage for the commission. The Historical Commission webpage is easy to navigate, but has a minimal level of information, limited to a list of commissioners, contact information, and a calendar module. Should the commission become active again, missing items that would improve the page are a thorough overview, including mission and responsibilities of the commission; a general email contact for the commission; an agenda and minutes module; meeting day/time, frequency and location; and links to local, state and national resources. *The Town of West Stockbridge uses the CivicPlus platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2020. Surcharge 2%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

N/A

Commission Challenges

N/A

Commission Successes

N/A

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

N/A

Recommendations

N/A

Town of Williamstown

Commission Status

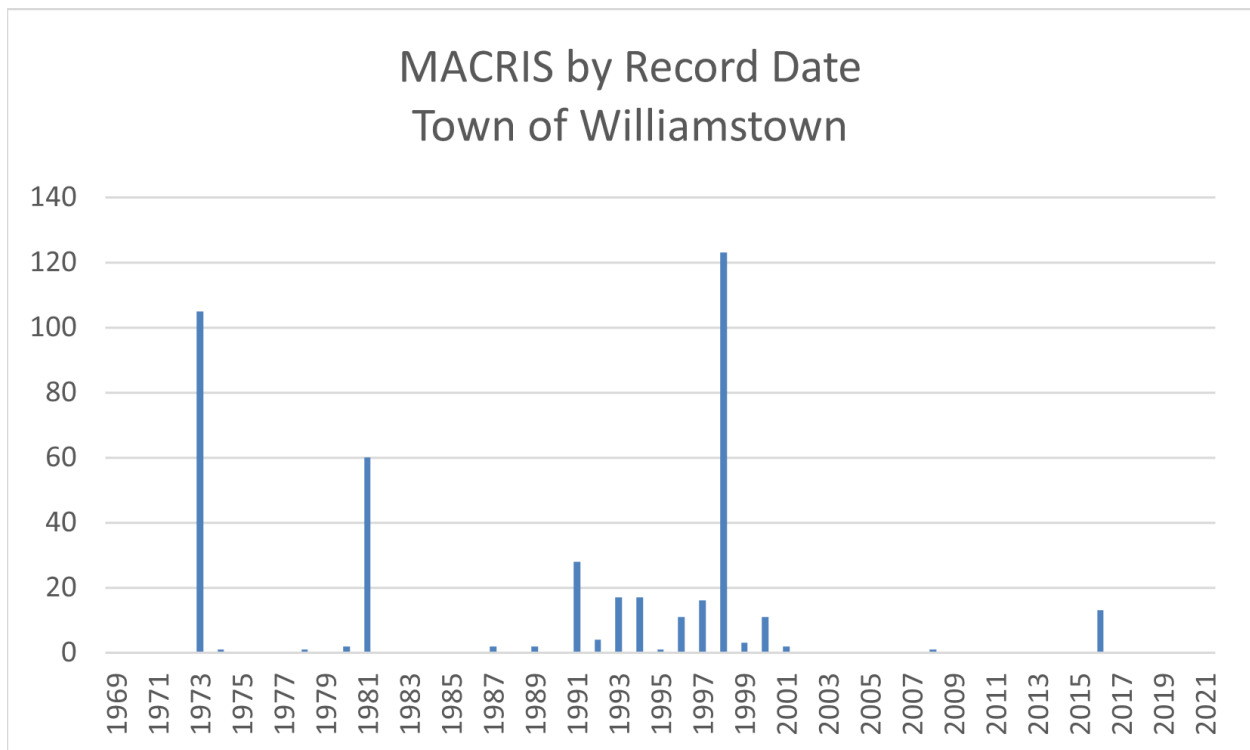
Historical Commission - active.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

The Town of Williamsburg has a five-member commission (with no alternates) which meets quarterly. The town liaison is responsible for posting agendas, facilitating meetings, and writing and posting minutes. The commission has not attended any trainings. Historic preservation funding has been received through *Community Preservation Funds*.

Historic Property Survey Status



The majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Williamstown was prepared in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. It is now largely out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Williamstown on the

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 338 buildings, 17 areas, 6 burial grounds, 35 structures and 28 objects. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 88 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Williamstown.

National Register Districts - There are four National Register Districts in Williamstown.

- East Lawn Cemetery and Sherman Burbank Memorial Chapel
- Five Corners Historic District
- Mill Village Historic District
- Williamstown Rail Yard and Station Historic District

National Register Individual Listings - There are three National Register Individual Property listings in Williamstown.

Webpage

The Historical Commission does not have its own webpage, nor do the other boards and commissions. Historical Commission information is limited to the names of commissioners, and does not include titles or term expirations. Given the nature of the hosting platform, it appears the only information that could be incorporated that would improve the page would be a telephone and/or email contact for the commission, and the inclusion of terms expirations. *The Town of Williamstown uses the Mungy platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

3-month delay.

Community Preservation Act

Adopted in 2002. Surcharge 2%.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

The commission is currently responsible for improving the town's historic property inventory; advising the Select Board and other boards and commissions; reviewing demolition permit applications; and reviewing Community Preservation Act funding proposals.

Commission Challenges

Filling seats on the commission, and understanding the direction and goals of the commission.

Commission Successes

No recent successes to report.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Conducting a historic property survey, drafting a preservation plan, and outreach programs.

Recommendations

The Town of Williamsburg has an active historical commission, which is seeking clarity and direction in its role. The historical property survey is out-of-date and in need of updating. The commission could benefit from attending trainings on understanding the role of a local historical commission, basics of preservation planning, historic property survey, municipal preservation plans, and effective outreach and education.

Town of Windsor

Commission Status

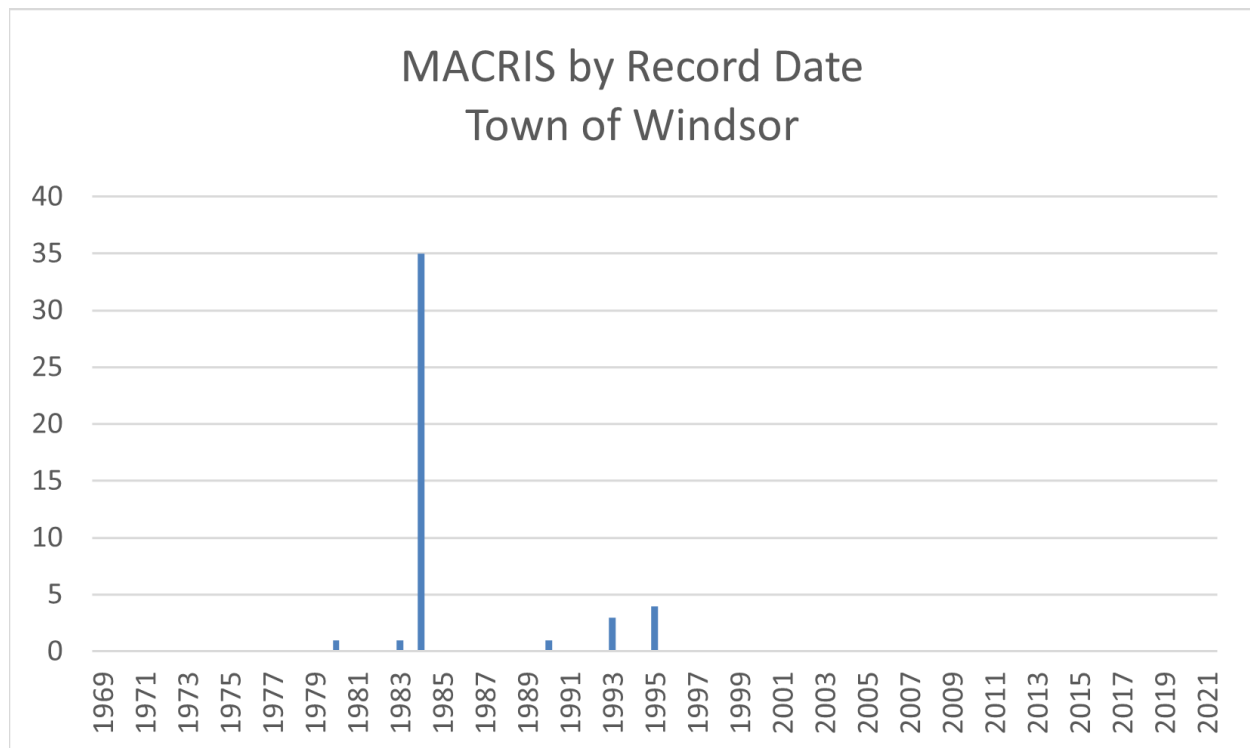
Historical Commission - unknown.

Historic District Commission - none.

Overview

Efforts to reach the Windsor Historical Commission were unsuccessful.

Historic Property Survey Status



The vast majority of the historic property survey for the Town of Windsor was prepared in the mid-1980s, and is now out of date and incomplete. A review of the existing historic property inventory for the Town of Windsor on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) found that there are records for approximately 34 buildings, 3 areas, 4 burial grounds, 6 structures and 1 object. Individual inventory forms are lacking for 4 of these records. A thorough review should be undertaken to

determine current survey needs and how the existing historic property inventory can be brought up to current standards.

Local, State and National Designations

Local Historic Districts - There are no local historic districts in Windsor.

National Register Districts - There are no National Register Districts in Windsor.

National Register Individual Listings - There are no National Register individual listings in Windsor.

Webpage

The Historical Commission webpage is limited to one page without external links, with a fair level of information, including email contacts for the chair and one commissioner.

Missing items that would improve the page are a reorganized overview, clearly defining commission responsibilities; links to agendas and minutes; commission term expirations; and links to local, state and national preservation resources. *The Town of Windsor uses a non-standard platform for its website.*

Demolition Delay Bylaw

None.

Community Preservation Act

Not participating.

Current Projects/Responsibilities of the Commission

Unknown.

Commission Challenges

Unknown.

Commission Successes

Unknown.

Commission Goals (next 5 years)

Unknown.

Recommendations

N/A