

Town of Newcastle
Ad-Hoc Historic Preservation Ordinance Committee
Agenda
Meeting Date: July , 2023 at 5:00PM
Location: Fire Station Community Room, 86 River Road

1. Call to Order
2. Review of minutes of previous meeting: June 21, 2023
3. Overview of Historic Preservation Ordinance, Draft 7 changes
4. Committee discussion of Ordinance items flagged for additional direction and any revisions to Draft 7
5. July 26, 2023 Public Info Meeting Preparation (Review of postcard mailer to SD-Historic owners, review of draft presentation, review of FAQ document for website)
6. Other Committee comments/discussion
7. Adjournment

Town of Newcastle
Historic Preservation Ordinance Committee
Meeting Date 6/21/23 at 5:30pm
At the Town Community Room (Fire Station)

Members Present: Ben Frey, Karen Paz, Catherine Burke, Tor Glendinning, Bonnie Stone
Also Present: Isabelle Oechsle (Consulting Planner), 5 members of the public

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Tor Glendinning called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.
2. **Review of minutes of previous meeting: June 8, 2023:** Karen Paz noted that Bonnie was not marked as present in the draft minutes, but she was there. ***Ben Frey moved to accept the meeting minutes as revised. Karen Paz seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.***
3. **Public Comment:** Tor asked members of the public present if they would like to provide comment.

The following comments were offered, with the answers from the Committee or the Consulting Planner in *italics*:

- Katharina Keoughan: Noted that it would be helpful for the public to be able to present examples of alterations to understand how they fit into this Ordinance. *Ben noted that they previously had the experience when, in the development of the Core Zoning Code, people wanted the opportunity to ask “worst case scenario” projects to test if the Core Zoning Code would prevent them. He noted that if she has a specific question, the Committee will attempt to answer, or that the answer would be provided in the forthcoming Design Guidelines Manual.* Asked how the Committee is judging the period of the house, and asked what is considered historic? *Isabelle directed her to Article 7, Section D for new additions to the Historic District or Local Landmarks. Otherwise, everything in the SD-Historic districts on the Town’s adopted Zoning Map would be subject to the Ordinance if adopted.* Karen noted that it would be up to the applicant to show what buildings they are inspired by/attempting to be compatible with, in the instance of New Construction proposals. Asked about the determination from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission before something can be demolished. *It was noted that the draft Ordinance is intended to provide a process for deciding if something can be demolished, not fully limiting demolitions. If something is a hazard building, the Code Enforcement Officer/the Town can get that determination through a civil case and tear the structure down.* Urged the Committee to consider allowing solar panels. Asked how windmills would be reviewed? *Ben answered under the same standards as solar panels.* Asked about existing structures and if they would be “grandfathered in”? *Isabelle answered that the intent of this Ordinance is not to force compliance with buildings that otherwise would not be doing work, however, when a permit is sought, the applicant would be required to abide by the standards of the Ordinance (if adopted). Any permits under review with the CEO but not yet approved at the time of adoption would be reviewed according to existing regulations, not this new Ordinance.*

- David Levesque: Urged the Committee to weigh solar panels or other renewable energy systems as of higher importance than historic preservation initiatives. Asked for further explanation of the grants that the Town would be eligible for if this Ordinance were to be adopted. *Tor and Isabelle explained that the Town would be eligible to apply for a number of grants from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission/National Parks Service to complete historic preservation initiatives in the community. In addition, income-producing property owners would be eligible to apply for grants as well as historic preservation tax credits (both state and federal) for qualifying projects. Finally, there is movement in the Legislature in the most recent session to expand the state historic preservation tax credit for all property owners, including residential property owners (homes rather than income-producing properties).*
 - Adrian Zahner: Noted that the restrictions in the draft Ordinance seem to be focused on lower visibility residential areas rather than “high-traveled, classic” areas of the community (such as Downtown). Urged the Committee to expand the scope so as not to miss important commercial areas. Asked that answers to the public’s questions be included in the minutes. Noted the use of the word “feasible” [in regard to Renewable Energy Systems] and that this needed to be defined. Urged the Committee to consider standards or design guidelines for certain weatherization efforts. Asked for clarification about the Local Landmarks/Historic District Expansion standards and how that works in practice (are people allowed to subject their neighbors to this Ordinance? What is the benefit of being involved in this Ordinance in comparison to the time that it would take to review applications for expansion of the historic district?) *Ben noted that there is a public benefit to recognizing and telling the history of Newcastle through regulation, and the time of Committee members is worth that public benefit. Becoming a Local Landmark provides both recognition and regulation of a building for future generations, unless or until the entire Town votes to remove the building. In the case of Historic District Expansion, the Planning Board, the Selectboard, or a citizen group could initiate a petition to amend the Ordinance (just like any other municipal ordinance) to include a building or group of buildings. This is a process provided under [State Law](#).*
 - Celeste (last name not provided): Noted that the Ordinance as drafted seems to note that the preference would be for solar panels to be placed in rear yards rather than on the roof of historic buildings. Asked why that would be the preference? *Ben responded that he does not believe that that is the trade-off being considered in the Ordinance, rather, that the Ordinance is asking the applicant to simply consider all alternatives rather than simply placing the panels on the roof and impacting the structure. After discussion by the Committee, there was general agreement to change the language around (1) what feasibility means in relation to this section and (2) create a list of priority considerations for placement of panels.*
4. **Overview of Historic Preservation Ordinance, Draft 6:** Isabelle provided an overview of this draft, indicating the sections where changes occurred based on Committee and public feedback from the previous meeting (see memo for Draft 6, available in the meeting packet [here](#)).

In general, discussion at this meeting focused on the following items:

- Solar panels and Renewable Energy Systems: After discussion in relation to this item and public comment above, the Committee asked that solar panels be a Tier 2 project and

that discussion occurs around a “priority considerations” list for applicants to consider in siting solar panels on historic properties.

- Tor asked for language surrounding how often the Review Board must meet. He suggested at least once a month.

5. **Discussion of Next Steps:** The Committee discussed dates of the public informational meeting and potential dates for public hearings. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Committee would have a “prep meeting” on July 5th (to prepare for the informational meeting) and that the public informational meeting would occur on July 26th at 6PM. Isabelle suggested that if all property owners within the SD-Historic areas are invited, we may need a bigger room. Ben noted that he would discuss using space at Lincoln Academy.
6. **Adjournment:** Ben moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37PM. Karen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT

To: Ad-Hoc Historic Preservation Committee
From: Isabelle Oechslie, Planning Consultant
Date: July 5, 2023 Meeting
RE: Draft 7: Historic Preservation Ordinance

BACKGROUND

During our seventh Committee meeting on June 21, 2023, you were provided with Draft 6 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The group heard a number of comments from members of the public, and then focused discussion mainly on the standards for Renewable Energy Systems. It was suggested that Renewable Energy Systems would be a Tier 2 project, not requiring the outside assistance of a historic preservation consultant for the purposes of review, and that the next draft incorporates alternative placements of solar panels that applicants must consider as part of their application (and must communicate to the Review Board why, out of the possible placements allowed, the roof is the most *economically* and *technologically* feasible for their project).

I've also flagged for further discussion the consideration of escrowing funds with the Town for Tier 3 projects, with a potential solution outlined in the Additional Items section below.

Finally, I want to note that the Ordinance has been reorganized to be consistent with the Town's established Ordinance format (as reflected in the Core Zoning Code and the Roads, Driveways, and Entrances Ordinance). Once final language is decided, Ben has offered to put the final draft into the final format.

ANALYSIS

In the analysis below I have flagged the items that you all asked me to consider within the Ordinance and have provided an explanation of how I attempted to address your desires within the red-lined edits for Draft 6.

- 1. *Standards for Renewable Energy Systems:*** See Article 2, Section 4.C of Draft 7. I have noted that *where possible* the expectation is that Renewable Energy Systems shall be located such that they will not be seen from the public realm. I have clarified that feasible in this case means either technologically or economically feasible; this would likely be demonstrated by the solar panel contractor's preliminary estimate and renderings. It may mean that the applicant asks the contractor complete multiple preliminary estimates and renderings, which I'm told by a Maine-based solar company that most should be happy to do.

Solar Design Summary

Project Size (DC)	74 Panels	29.6 kW
Project Size (AC)	2 Inverters	25 kW
Annual Generation (kWh)		39,052

Investment Summary

Turnkey System Cost (incl. Allowances)	\$131,724
Permitting & Site Preparation Allowance	\$2,168
Utility Applications & Upgrades Allowance	\$2,669
Average Annual O&M cost (Recommended)	\$0
Investment Tax Credit	-\$40,000
Depreciation Benefits	\$0
Rebate/Grant (Estimate)	\$0
Net investment	\$91,724

Engineer's Rendering

Snippet of a Maine-based solar company's preliminary estimate sheet, which shows the cost summary and the rendering of the proposed solar panels.

Pursuant to the goals outlined by the Committee, I believe that the way that this section is worded in Draft 7 is both more permissive in allowing alternative siting locations for solar panels (and identifies the priority places that should be considered by applicants, other than on the roof visible from the public realm), while still providing standards that mitigate impact to historic properties.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

The below items focus on comments received from the public during the last meeting that have not yet been discussed by the Committee. During our next meeting, direction from the Committee about how you would like to resolve these items would be prudent.

- **Escrow funds for Tier 3 Projects:** Public comments continue to focus on the escrow of funds for certain identified projects. I'm of the opinion that the apprehension towards the escrow is the unidentified future cost to applicants. To this end, the Chair and I have brainstormed a couple of potential alternatives than outlining escrow fees in the Ordinance.

While I still believe that the Historic Preservation Review Board should retain the authority to hire professionals to assist in their review (mainly in an effort to keep the Review Board from "spinning their wheels" for multiple meetings about a potential project, thereby drawing out the permitting turnaround and causing frustration for all involved), the Town may instead consider building in the cost of the escrow into the fees for all Tier 3 projects (e.g., offsetting the cost of the Town to hire a third-party peer reviewer by the revenue generated through Tier 3 application fees). We have spent time as a Committee identifying the list of

potentially impactful Tier 3 projects, and that list is quite limited. Additional research would need to be done by the Selectboard at the time that the fee schedule is set, but it may be worthwhile to consider a tiered application fee system (with lower fees for Tier 1 projects, commensurate with only the estimated cost of the Planner's time to review; slightly higher fees for Tier 2 projects, to take into account the cost of noticing a public hearing; and still higher fees for the Tier 3 projects, which would consider both the cost of noticing the public hearing on those projects and the cost of hiring a professional to assist in review). This is the recommendation currently reflected in Draft 7 of the Ordinance, where I have removed reference to the escrow of funds for Tier 3 projects. (Note: a tiered application fee system would be my recommendation regardless of whether or not the escrow is included in the Tier 3 application fee or is considered as a separate, set fee. Application fees should generally be commensurate with the amount of time it takes Town staff to administer the application.)

Alternatively, the Town may wish to consider reference in the Ordinance that the Review Board may, at their discretion, hire a third-party peer reviewer to assist in review. I have not recommended this course of action in Draft 7 because it seems to me that this does not address the anxiety of the public, in that they want to be able to plan for the full cost of permitting fees for each level of project.

In general, additional discussion surrounding this item may be warranted at the next meeting so that I can better understand the Committee's position on this matter.

Attachments:

- 1. Newcastle Historic Preservation Ordinance, Draft 7 (tracked changes)*

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Article 1: General

A. Purpose and intent.

1. Protect Newcastle's historic, architectural, and cultural heritage.
2. Assist property owners with maintaining the architectural integrity of the district.
3. Protect, preserve, and enhance the outward appearance and architectural features of identified historic structures.
4. Prevent the demolition or removal of significant historic buildings or structures within designated historic districts.
5. Preserve, protect, and enhance the essential character of designated districts by protecting relationships of groups of buildings and structures.
6. Accept new buildings and structures which are designed and built in a manner which is compatible with the character of the district.

B. Applicability.

1. This Ordinance shall apply to the following within the Historic Special District as shown on the Official District Map in Article 1 of the Core Zoning Code:
 - a. Demolition of any building or portion of any Primary or Accessory Building in the Historic Special District.
 - b. Moving any Primary or Accessory Building or portion of any Primary or Accessory Building located within the Historic Special District.
 - c. Exterior Additions or Alterations to any Primary or Accessory Building or portion of any Primary or Accessory Building located within the Historic Special District when such construction would be visible from the public realm.
 - d. Reconstruction of any Primary or Accessory Building or portion of any Primary or Accessory Building located within the Historic Special District when such reconstruction would be visible from the public realm.
 - e. New construction of Primary or Accessory Buildings in the Historic Special District when such construction would be visible from the public realm.
 - f. The installation of Renewable Energy Systems within the Historic Special District.
2. In addition, Articles 3 and 4 of this Ordinance shall apply to designated Local Landmarks as described in this subsection.
 - a. Reserved.
3. In addition, Article 7 of this Ordinance shall govern the establishment and expansion of Local Landmarks and Historic Special Districts.
4. In addition, Article 9 shall apply to any Local Landmark, as designated in Section B.2 above, or any structure located within the Historic Special District.

C. Exempt Activities.

1. The only activities exempt from review under Articles 3, 4, and 5, as may be applicable, are the following:

Commented [1]: Will check in with Town Attorney regarding provisions for non-conformity. The intent is not to require existing non-conformities to meet this Ordinance rather to address nonconformities to come into compliance as changes are proposed (e.g. to ensure that proposed changes meet the standards of this ordinance at the time that a permit is sought)

- a. Alteration to or addition of mailboxes, flowerboxes, flags, or other similar removable decorative features.
- b. Change in paint color, except when the painting of brick, stone or other masonry is proposed.
- c. The installation of security devices, such as control panels, touch key plates, mirrors, cameras, and peepholes.
- d. Exterior placement of meters, vents, cable or telephone boxes, wiring, antennas, satellite dishes, and components of HVAC systems, when the placement is not on the primary facade;
- e. General maintenance and repair of structures (including but not limited to the following: scraping and repainting, caulking and weather-stripping, and the replacement of materials when the materials are being replaced in kind with no changes);
- f. Alteration or replacement of existing non-historic gutters, downspouts, storm windows, conduit, venting or other non-original features which already exist and are required for the operation and physical health of the building and do not significantly alter the building or compromise historic features or character-defining elements on the structure (subject to the determination of the Planning Department).

D. Meaning & Purpose.

- 1. Words, phrases and terms used within this Ordinance are defined in the Definitions section or within the Articles that contain standards associated with the term.
- 2. Words, phrases and terms not defined in this Ordinance must be accorded their commonly accepted meanings as defined in the most recent edition of the Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.
- 3. The terms "standards," "regulations," and "requirements" are used to mandate a specific course of action or built outcome.
- 4. The words "must," "will", and "shall" are mandatory and when used require compliance with standards, regulations, and requirements of the Ordinance.
- 5. The words "may" and "should" are permissive.

E. Authority & Compliance.

1. Authority.

- a. This Ordinance is adopted under the authority granted by XXXXX.

2. Relationship to Other Standards.

- a. This Ordinance does not abrogate, annul, or otherwise interfere with any easement, covenant, and/or other private agreements.
- b. Where the standards of this Ordinance impose a greater restriction than required by other ordinances, regulations, resolutions, rules, easements, covenants, or agreements, the provision of this Ordinance must apply.
- c. Where standards conflict, the standards of this Ordinance must take precedence over those of other codes, ordinances, regulations, and standards that may be in conflict with this Ordinance. Additions or Alterations for the purpose of complying with other codes, ordinances,

regulations, and standards are still subject to review by this Ordinance. This Ordinance does not abrogate or annul any other codes, ordinances, regulations or standards.

- d. All development activity must comply with relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. Where there is a direct conflict between this Ordinance and the standards of a Federal or State Law, Federal or State Law supersedes the standards of this Ordinance.

3. Hazard Buildings. No provision in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent the Alteration, Demolition, or Relocation of a building when the Code Enforcement Officer certifies that such action is required for the public safety.

4. Appeals. An appeal from the final decision of the Historic Preservation Review Board may be taken by any party or person aggrieved to the Zoning Board of Appeals within 30 days from the date of the decision. Appeals from final decisions from the Planning Department may be taken by any party or person aggrieved but must be taken to the Historic Preservation Review Board within 30 days from the date of the decision.

Article 2: Standards

1. Alterations and Additions

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this subsection is to further the purposes of this Ordinance by preserving the essential character of historic buildings which are important to the education, culture, traditions, and the economic value of the Town.
- B. **Applicability.** The following standards shall be used by the Review Board in reviewing applications for Certificate of Appropriateness when an Alteration or Addition to an existing Primary or Accessory Building is proposed in the Historic Special District, or when an Alteration or Addition to a designated Local Landmark is proposed, except for the installation of Renewable Energy Systems which shall be governed by Article 6.
- C. **Standards.**
 - 1. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a structure and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible. If removal of historic material or a distinctive feature is proposed, an alternatives analysis shall be submitted which identifies: (1) what considerations were taken before ultimately deciding on removal and why the other considerations were not feasible; (2) if an alternative material is proposed, how the alternative material is considered a similar substitute in quality, permanence, and look.
 - 2. All Primary and Accessory Buildings shall be recognized as products of their own time period, place and use. Alterations that have no historical basis or create a false sense of historical development such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other time periods shall not be undertaken.
 - 3. Changes which may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a structure, object or site and its environment. Changes that have acquired significance in their own right shall not be destroyed.
 - 4. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a structure, object or site shall not be removed.
 - 5. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced wherever feasible. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the feature being replaced in composition, design, texture and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Repair or replacement of missing historic features shall be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by documentary, physical or photographic evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other structures or objects.
 - 6. The surface cleaning of structures and objects, if appropriate, shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be undertaken.
 - 7. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve significant archeological resources affected by or adjacent to any project. If resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

8. Contemporary design for Additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such Alterations and Additions do not destroy significant cultural, historical, architectural or archeological materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
9. New Additions or Alterations to structures shall be undertaken in such a manner that, if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property would be unimpaired.
 - a. Additions should be made on a side or rear elevation, not on the primary façade, unless in the determination of the Permitting Authority an addition to the side or rear elevation is not possible due to unique constraints of the project.

2. Demolitions and Relocations

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this subsection is to further the purposes of this Ordinance by preserving historic buildings which are important to the education, culture, traditions, and the economic value of the Town. Furthermore, the purpose of this section is to afford the Town, historic societies, other preservation organizations, and others interested in preservation the opportunity to acquire or arrange for the preservation of historic buildings and structures, or important portions and features thereof, or proper removal of historic artifacts, or the proper recordation of the building, structure and/or site.
- B. **Applicability.** The following standards shall be used by the Review Board in reviewing applications for Certificate of Appropriateness when Demolition or Relocation of an existing Primary Building is proposed within the Historic Special District, or when the Demolition or Relocation of a designated Local Landmark is proposed.
- C. **Stay.** At the hearing on the application for Demolition or Relocation, the Review Board may, in the interest of exploring reasonable alternatives, delay issuance of the Certificate of Appropriateness for up to 90 days from the date of the hearing. If, 10 days prior to the expiration of the delay period, the Commission finds that there are still reasonable alternatives to explore, the Review Board may continue the delay for one additional period of up to 30 days. The purpose of the delay is to assist the applicant in finding alternatives to Demolition or Relocation, such as:
 1. Assisting in securing funding to preserve in place the structure or important features thereof; or
 2. Finding other ways to preserve the structure, such as outright purchase if possible, or relocation; or
 3. At minimum, to provide the opportunity for the proper recordation of buildings, structures, and sites, including photography and narrative report.
- D. **Standards.** In order to approve an application to relocate or demolish a building within the Historic Special District, or the Demolition or Relocation of a designated Local Landmark, the Review Board must find that the proposal meets at least one of the following standards for approval:

1. The Review Board determines that the structure is not of historic significance based on findings from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or a qualified architectural historian.
 - a. In order to make this determination, the Review Board shall require the applicant to obtain a letter from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or escrow funds with the Town to hire a qualified architectural historian to make a determination as to the eligibility of the structure to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, either on its own or as a contributing structure to an eligible Historic District. If the structure is considered eligible for listing and the applicant formally applies to the National Register and is declined, the status of the property may be reconsidered.
 2. The structure, or predominant portions thereof, has been determined to represent an immediate hazard to the public health or safety because of severe structural deficiencies, which hazard cannot be abated by reasonable measures.
 - a. In order to make this determination, the applicant must escrow funds with the Town sufficient to hire a third-party structural engineer to provide a written report as to the integrity of the building.
 3. No prudent and feasible alternative exists.
 - a. In order to assist the Review Board in making this determination, the applicant must submit an alternatives analysis indicating the alternatives to demolition considered and the reasons that they are not feasible. Economic hardship may be a consideration, but the applicant must demonstrate through quotes from qualified professionals that the economic hardship would be too great. In this case, Relocation will be encouraged rather than Demolition.
- E. **Conditions of Approval for Demolition.** In approving an application to demolish a building within the Historic Special District, or the Demolition of a designated Local Landmark, the Review Board may impose the following conditions, or any others that it deems appropriate to properly document or attempt to save the structure:
1. The applicant shall allow the Review Board, Historical Society, or another historic preservation entity of the Board's choosing to document the structure inside and out prior to the structure's destruction.
 2. The applicant shall advertise to the general public the structure as available for free, offering the structure to be moved or scrapped for salvage materials. The advertisement shall appear in a newspaper of local circulation a minimum of two times.

3. New Construction and Additions

- A. **Purpose.** The purpose of this subsection is to further the purposes of this Ordinance by allowing new construction within the Historic Special District that preserves, protects, and enhances the essential character of the District. This subsection provides standards to ensure that new buildings are designed and built in a manner which is compatible with the essential character of the district.
- B. **Applicability.** The following standards shall be used by the Review Board in reviewing applications for Certificate of Appropriateness when New Construction of a Primary or

Accessory Building, or an Addition to a Primary or Accessory Building, is proposed within the Historic Special District.

C. **Standards.**

1. **Scale and form.** In addition to the requirements for the Historic Special District as outlined in the Core Zoning Code, Article 2: District Standards as well as any applicable Design Standards as outlined in Article 5, the following standards related to building scale and form shall also apply:
 - a. **Height.** The proposed height of the building shall be visibly compatible with immediately adjacent structures and the neighborhood as a whole when viewed from the public realm.
 - b. **Width.** The width of a building shall be visually compatible with immediately adjacent structures and the neighborhood as a whole when viewed from the public realm.
 - c. **Proportions of principal facades.** New construction shall be compatible in proportion with existing buildings in the neighborhood.
 - d. **Roofs.**
 1. **Roof shapes.** The proposed roof shape shall fit in with the established context of the neighborhood and of immediately adjacent structures.
 2. **Rooftop decks.** Rooftop decks shall be designed so that they cannot be seen from the public realm.
 3. **Rooftop utilities.** When rooftop utilities, including but not limited to communication antennae, satellite dishes, mechanical units, elevator towers, and vents are proposed, the utility shall be visually screened from the public realm by the placement of decorative elements that are in keeping with the established context of the neighborhood and of immediately adjacent structures. Alternatively, rooftop utilities shall be placed in such a way where they are not visible from the public realm, such as on the rear of the building.
2. **Composition.**
 - a. Characteristic sizes and proportions of window and door openings, rhythm of entrances, porches and other projections to public ways shall be consistent with the proportions of openings found either within the established neighborhood context and/or on buildings to which it is visually related.
 - b. **Relationship of materials.** Building materials shall be reflective of and complementary to existing buildings within the historic district. Materials shall be durable and of high-quality.
3. **Relationship to street.** In addition to the requirements for the Historic Special District as outlined in the Core Zoning Code, Article 2: District Standards, the following standards related to the relationship between the new construction and the street shall also apply:
 - a. **Walls of continuity.** Facades and site structures, such as masonry walls, fences and landscape masses, should, when it is a characteristic of the area, form cohesive walls of enclosure along a street to ensure visual continuity with the structures, public ways and places to which such elements are visually related.

- b. **Unifying development pattern.** The new construction shall maintain any unifying development pattern such as orientation of buildings, setbacks, building coverage.
- 4. Other standards.
 - a. **Uses.** Non-residential uses shall not alter the character-defining features of the structure and its environment such that it would not be recognizable as its original residential use.
 - b. **Distinguishing original character.** The distinguishing original qualities or character of a site and its environment shall not be destroyed. If a distinguishing original feature is proposed to be altered or removed, an alternatives analysis must be submitted which indicates the reasons for alteration or removal.
 - c. **Archeological resources.** Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve significant archeological resources affected by or adjacent to any project. If, on the basis of an archeological site survey or other information, the Permitting Authority determines that there is an archeological resource on or immediately adjacent to the parcel, it may limit excavation or building to preserve or protect the site or may approve a plan or conditions to provide for appropriate evaluation, excavation or protection of the resource. If resources must be disturbed because no feasible alternative exists, documentation of the resource shall be undertaken and provided to the Town and to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

4. Renewable Energy Systems

- A. **Purpose.** Recognizing that historic properties may need to adapt to changing technologies, this section is intended to provide clear standards for the review of the installation of renewable energy systems, including but not limited to solar panels or windmills, on historic properties.
- B. **Applicability.** The following standards shall be used by the Review Board in reviewing applications for Certificate of Appropriateness when the installation of renewable energy systems are proposed on any property within the Historic Special District or on a designated Local Landmark property.
- C. **Standards.**
 - 1. Where possible, all Renewable Energy Systems shall be placed in such a way that they are unable to be seen from the public realm. When, in the determination of the Review Board, this is not economically or technologically feasible, the Review Board may approve one of the following alternatives:
 - a. Renewable Energy Systems located on Accessory Buildings.
 - b. Renewable Energy Systems located on rear roof slopes, behind existing architectural features or parapets, where such visibility does not detract from the overall historic character of the property.
 - c. Ground-mounted Renewable Energy Systems located in the rear yard.
 - 2. The following standards shall be met when the installation of Renewable Energy Systems is proposed on the roof of a structure:

- a. Permanent removal of historic roofing materials as part of the installation of solar panels on ~~visible~~ portions of a roof visible from the public realm shall not be undertaken.
- b. Permanent removal or otherwise altering a historic roof element and configuration (dormers, chimneys, or other features) on ~~visible~~ portions of a roof visible from the public way shall not be undertaken.
- c. Any installation procedure that will cause irreversible changes to historic features or materials on ~~visible~~ portions of a roof visible from the public realm shall not be undertaken.
- d. The placement of solar panels on top of visible slate or clay tile roofing shall not be undertaken in any instance.
- ~~d.e.~~ The color of conduit and all attachment mechanisms for Renewable Energy Systems shall be painted to be compatible with the existing building materials, including roof, siding, or similar.
- e.f. The placement of panels in an array shape that does not echo that of the visible roof plane shall not be undertaken in any instance. Solar panels must be consistent with the existing pitch of the roof. ~~lay flat on the roof.~~

~~1.3. Where possible, all renewable energy systems shall be placed in such a way that they are unable to be seen from the public realm. In addition to demonstrating compliance with the above standards, if the applicant is proposing to install a renewable energy system that would be visible from the public realm, the applicant shall submit an alternatives analysis demonstrating why the system could not be placed in a different area so as to be less visible or why ground mounted solar is not feasible, if applicable. The Review Board may only approve energy systems that would be visible from the public realm if all of the above standards are met and, in the determination of the Board, a reasonable alternative does not exist.~~

Article 3: Administration

1. Historic Preservation Review Board.

- A. **Membership.** The Historic Preservation Review Board's membership shall be comprised of five regular members. There shall be at least one member from each of the Town's three Historic Special Districts (Damariscotta Mills, Sheepscot Village, and Glidden Street).
- B. **Appointment.** Members of the Historic Preservation Review Board (the Review Board) shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Selectboard to serve staggered terms of 3 years.
- C. **Qualifications.** Appointments to the Review Board shall be made on the basis of demonstrated interest, knowledge, ability and experience to promote historic preservation in Newcastle. It is preferred that members have architectural design skills or other experience related to historic preservation, such as history, architectural history, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, law, archaeology and building construction or trades.
- D. **Board Rules.** The Review Board may adopt rules of procedure and policy as it may deem necessary to conduct its affairs, following a public hearing thereon. Board rules shall include application forms and checklists of required submittals that will sufficiently allow applicants to demonstrate compliance with the relevant standards of review. Meetings. The Review Board should hold at least one meeting per month, or more as it deems necessary. A quorum of at least three members will be required for voting purposes.

E. Meetings. The Review Board should hold at least one meeting per month, or more as it deems necessary. A quorum of at least three members will be required for voting purposes.

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E-F. Responsibilities.

- 1. The Historic Preservation Review Board reviews applications for Certificate of Appropriateness determined to be either Tier 2 or Tier 3 Projects under Article 2, Section C below. The review of such applications is limited to the applicable review standards under this Ordinance. The Historic Preservation Review Board's authority is limited to the standards of this Ordinance, as may be amended.
- 2. The Historic Preservation Review Board provides a report to the Planning Board and Selectboard following a petition to establish or expand the Historic Special

District or a petition to designate a property as a Local Landmark as described in Article 7 below.

3. The Historic Preservation Review Board may provide advice to the Planning Board, Selectboard, or any other Town body regarding historic preservation and issues or opportunities related to historic preservation in Newcastle.
4. Review and make recommendations regarding all national register proposals for properties and districts within the Town.

2. Procedure for Certificate of Appropriateness.

A. **Application & Fees.** A Certificate of Appropriateness application must be filed, including payment of the applicable fee, with the Planning Department on forms created by the Town for that purpose.

~~B. **Escrow.** In order to assist with the review of Tier 3 Projects, the Review Board shall require the applicant to submit an additional escrow to the Town for the purpose of hiring a consultant meeting the professional qualification standards as outlined by the Secretary of the Interior (36 CFR 61).~~

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~~B.~~ **Determination of Completeness.** Upon receipt of an application, the Planning Department shall determine whether the application is complete and shall determine whether the scope, nature, or scale of the proposed project requires review by the Historic Preservation Review Board or whether it is a minor or routine project that is appropriately reviewed at the administrative level.

~~D.C.~~ **Other Permits.** No Permit, including Demolition Permits, Use Permits, or otherwise, may be issued for any construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition until a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued by the relevant Permitting Authority in accordance with this Ordinance.

~~E.D.~~ **Tier 1 Projects.**

1. **Permitting Authority.** Tier 1 Projects shall be reviewed administratively by the Planning Department.
2. **Applicability.** Tier 1 Projects include various projects in which the visual character of the property is not substantially changed, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. The removal of materials and features that are not in compliance with Section 3.C below (e.g. because they have no historical basis or create a false sense of historical development);

- b. The replacement of materials and features not in compliance with Section 3.C below with materials and features that are in keeping with Section 3.C (e.g. replacing architectural features that have no historical basis with ones that do);
 - c. The installation of missing historical materials and features, supported by documentation;
 - d. Repointing and other masonry repairs;
 - e. Construction or replacement of patios or decks where the majority of the patio or deck cannot be seen from the public realm;
 - f. Exterior placement of meters, vents, cable or telephone boxes, wiring, antennas, satellite dishes, and components of HVAC systems, when the placement is on the primary facade;
 - g. Addition, removal or replacement of cloth, canvas or acrylic awnings that otherwise comply with the relevant review standards;
 - h. Removal of deteriorated accessory buildings which are not original to the site or otherwise historically significant;
 - i. Installation of a temporary structure designed to promote safe access for individuals with disabilities, so long as the temporary structure can be removed and does not impact the essential form of the property;
 - j. The installation of fences or low walls of wood, stone, brick or similar (unless proposed in the Frontage Zone of the lot);
 - k. The replacement of exterior light fixtures and the installation of new light fixtures, including fixtures to illuminate signage.
3. **Process.** Where staff determines that such an application meets the relevant review standards, the Certificate of Appropriateness shall be issued by staff within ten (10) business days, without presentation to the Historic Preservation Review Board for approval. If the Planning Department has not acted within ten (10) business days, the applicant may seek approval from the Review Board, rather than staff. Inaction by the Planning Department does not constitute approval or disapproval of the application.
- a. Applicants proposing Tier 1 Projects may elect for their application to be reviewed by the Review Board rather than the Planning Department according to the procedures and standards required for a Certificate of Appropriateness, as may be applicable.
 - b. If the applicant is not satisfied with the determination of the Planning Department, the applicant shall be permitted to have the entire application reviewed by the Review Board. Staff can, for any reason, forward any Minor Project to the Review Board for review. The Planning Department shall provide

the Review Board with written notice of any action taken on applications as an informational item at the next meeting.

F.E. Tier 2 Projects.

1. **Permitting Authority.** Tier 2 Projects are reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board at a duly-noticed public hearing.
2. **Applicability.** Tier 2 Projects involve a change in appearance of a property which is more substantial than Tier 1 but not as impactful to the overall fabric of the neighborhood as Tier 3 Projects. They include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Replacement of architectural details when there will be a change in design or materials from the original or existing details;
 - b. The installation of fences or low walls of wood, stone, brick or similar, when proposed to be installed within the Frontage Zone of the lot;
 - c. The installation of Renewable Energy Systems;
 - d. Changes to roof lines, including rooftop additions, rooftop decks, or dormers.
3. **Process.** If the Planning Department determines that the project is complete and should be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board as a Tier 2, the item shall be scheduled for the next available Review Board meeting, provided that the noticing requirements of Section 2.D can be met prior to that meeting. Within thirty (30) days of the closing of the public hearing, the Review Board must make a decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application.

G.F. Tier 3 Projects.

1. **Permitting Authority.** Tier 3 Projects are reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board at a duly-noticed public hearing, and typically require the assistance of ~~require an escrow account to be established with the Town for the purposes of hiring~~ a qualified historic preservation consultant to assist the Review Board with their review of the application.
2. **Applicability.** Tier 3 Projects involve a change in the appearance of a property which is more substantial in nature than Tier 1 or Tier 2 Projects. They include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. New Construction or Additions to buildings;
 - b. Demolition of any part of a structure;
 - c. Discovery of any archaeological resource on the site;

d. Moving of buildings;

e. New Additional Structures.

3. **Process.** If the Planning Department determines that the project is complete and should be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board as a Tier 3 Project, the item shall be scheduled for the next available Review Board meeting, provided that the noticing requirements of Section 2.D can be met prior to that meeting. Within thirty (30) days of the closing of the public hearing, the Review Board must make a decision to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application.

H.G. **Public Hearings.**

1. The Review Board shall hold a public hearing on each Tier 2 or Tier 3 application for Certificate of Appropriateness prior to a decision being rendered. A notice of the hearing shall be mailed by the Town to direct abutters via USPS first class mail, postmarked at least 7 days in advance of the hearing. A notice shall also be posted by the Planning Department at the Town Office and on the Town's website. In the case of an application for a new Primary Building or an addition to an existing Primary Building, the noticing area shall be extended to abutting property owners within 250' of the subject property. Notice shall be made by the applicants, with receipt of mailing required to be submitted to the Town.
2. Public Hearings or notification are not required for Tier 1 Projects reviewed administratively.

H.H. **Approval.** If the Permitting Authority determines that the proposed Addition, Alteration, Relocation, New Construction or Demolition meets the standards of this Ordinance, it shall approve a Certificate of Appropriateness, and shall notify the applicant and Code Enforcement Officer, in writing, of the determination along with any conditions of approval.

H.I. **Denial.** If the Permitting Authority determines that a Certificate of Appropriateness should not be issued, it shall make findings describing how the application does not meet the standards of this chapter. However, in order to prepare more detailed findings, the Review Board may postpone the decision for up to ten (10) business days in order to prepare and adopt more-detailed findings. The Review Board shall notify the applicant and the Code Enforcement Officer within ten (10) business days of the final determination.

H.J. **Time Limits on Certificates of Appropriateness.**

1. If substantial construction has not commenced within one year of the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, the approval shall be null and void except that the deadline may be extended for one additional six-month period by the Planning

Department upon written request of the applicant. The written request for an extension must be submitted before the date of expiration of the initial approval. After the approval has expired or an extension has been denied, the applicant may reapply to the Review Board at any time without prejudice. The extension shall be approved by the Planning Department, as outlined above, unless there is:

- a. Additional information that indicates that the plan does not meet the standards of this Ordinance;
- b. A failure to meet a condition of approval;
- c. An amendment to this Ordinance that prohibits or otherwise alters the proposed project.

3. Establishment of Historic Special Districts or Local Landmarks

A. Purpose. To provide a clear amendment process for the establishment or expansion of Historic Special Districts or Local Landmarks, in accordance with Title 30-A, M.R.S.A § 4352 (Zoning Ordinances), as may be amended from time to time

B. Applicability. This section shall apply to any petition to establish a new Historic Special District or expand an existing Historic Special District, regardless of who is petitioning. In addition, this section shall apply to the petition by the property owner or their agents/assigns to establish a Local Landmark.

C. Procedure.

- 1. Application.** Any person or group seeking to add or expand historic districts shall request the amendment in writing to the Historic Preservation Review Board. Any proposal by the Selectboard or Planning Board shall be referred to the Review Board for comment before any further action. Any applications shall be in writing.
- 2. Studies and recommendations.** Before making its recommendation concerning the proposed establishment or expansion of an historic district or Local Landmark, the Review Board may conduct studies and research on the proposal. The Review Board shall make a report on every request received within six months. The final report shall also be mailed to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for review.
- 3. Public hearing.** Prior to making a recommendation concerning the proposed establishment or expansion of an historic district or Local Landmark, the Review Board shall hold a public hearing on the request, after due notice is provided twice in a newspaper of general circulation. The date of the first publication must be at least 12 days before the hearing and the date of the 2nd publication must be at least 7 days before the hearing. The notice must be written in plain English, understandable by the average citizen. Mailed notice of the proposal shall also be sent to the applicant, owners

of all property to be included within the proposed designation, and property within a 250-foot radius of the property under consideration.

4. **Final report.** Not later than 30 days after the public hearing, the Review Board shall submit a final report to the Planning Board with the Review Board's recommendation.
5. **Further action.** After receipt of the Review Board's recommendations, as provided above, the petition will make its way through the Zoning Amendment process as described in Article 7, Section 21 of the Core Zoning Code.

D. Eligibility for Historic Designation. The properties designated in accordance with this section shall have one or more of the following characteristics:

1. **History of Newcastle.** Structures, buildings or sites at which events have occurred that contribute to and are identified with or significantly represent or exemplify the broad cultural, political, economic, military, or social history of Newcastle, the State of Maine, or the nation, including sites or buildings at which visitors may gain insight or see examples of particular items or of larger patterns in the North American heritage.
2. **Persons.** Structures, buildings or sites associated with important historic persons.
3. **Ideas.** Structures, buildings or sites associated with important examples of a great idea or ideal.
4. **Architecture.** Structures or structural remains and sites embodying examples of architectural types or specimens valuable for the study of a period, style or method of building construction; for the study of community organization and living; landscaping; a single notable structure; or a site representing the work of a master builder, master designer, architect or landscape architect.
5. **Visual continuity.** Structures or buildings contributing to the overall visual continuity of the historic district.
6. **National Register.** Those sites or areas listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

4. Interim Protection for Nominations

- A. **Nominated Local Landmarks and Historic Districts.** From the time of nomination until the Historic Preservation Review Board acts upon such nomination, a site, structure, object or area nominated but not yet designated as a Local Landmark or Historic Special District, including expansions to existing Historic Special Districts, shall be subject to all of the provisions of Article 4 governing demolition, to the same extent as if designated. Upon final action of the Historic Preservation Review Board recommending designation, the structure or area nominated shall be subject to all of the protections of Article 4 of this Ordinance until such time as a final decision

on designation by the legislative body of the Town of Newcastle becomes effective. If the legislative body rejects designation or fails to designate a property, that property shall no longer be subject to the provisions of Article 4 of this Ordinance.

5. Enforcement

- A. Where the applicant has done work or caused work to be done on a structure or a property for which a Certificate of Appropriateness is sought and such work is either not done in compliance with an approval received under this Ordinance, or any other Ordinance of the Town of Newcastle, or was performed without the approvals required under this Ordinance or any other Ordinance of the Town of Newcastle, no application for such structure or property shall be considered by the Planning Department or by the Historic Preservation Review Board until the work done without approval is brought into compliance with the requirements of the relevant Ordinance.
- B. Review of any application by the Planning Department or by the Historic Preservation Review Board shall not constitute waiver of any future claims by the Town concerning violations and shall not stop the Town from prosecuting any violation.
- C. Failure to perform any act required by this Ordinance or of any conditions of approval on any Certificate of Appropriateness issued hereunder, or performance of any act prohibited by this Ordinance, shall constitute a violation and be subject to a fine as provided in 30-A M.R.S. §4452, as may be amended. Each day on which there is failure to perform a required act or on which a violation exists shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of this section.

Article 4: Definitions

Accessory Building: Same as the definition found in Article 8 of the Core Zoning Code.

Addition: An improvement that increases the square footage of a structure. These include lateral additions added to the side or rear of a structure or vertical additions added on top of a structure.

Additional Structure: Same as the definition found in Article 8 of the Core Zoning Code.

Alteration: For the purposes of this Ordinance, this includes any change in siding materials, roofing materials, foundations, gutters, door and window sash and integral decorative elements, such as, but not limited to, cornices, brackets, window architraves, doorway pediments, railing, balusters, columns, cupolas and cresting and roof decorations. This definition also includes the addition of rooftop solar panels, skylights, utilities, and similar when seen from the public realm.

Applicant: Same as the definition found in Article 8 of the Core Zoning Code.

Architectural Feature: The architectural elements embodying style, design, general arrangement, and components of the exterior of any building or structure, including, but not limited to: decorative elements, the kind or texture of the building materials, and the style and type of all windows, doors, lights, and porches.

Certificate of Appropriateness: The approval documentation indicating compliance with the relevant standards of this Ordinance.

Character or Character-Defining: The visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of a building, including the overall shape of the building and its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, and unique aspects of its site or environment.

Demolition: The razing of a building or a structure or the removal of any exterior architectural feature or structure or object.

Frontage Zone: Same as the definition found in Article 8 of the Core Zoning Code.

Hazard Building(s): Any building which, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, physical damage (including damage from a fire, flood, or similar), unsanitary condition, or abandonment, constitutes a fire hazard or a danger to public health.

Historic Preservation: Broadly, this is a conversation about the past for the purposes of planning for the future. For the purposes of this Ordinance, this means identifying and regulating buildings, structures, sites or districts with cultural, social, architectural or historic value in order to communicate with future generations those places (including individual buildings or sites and whole neighborhoods) which have been important or significant to the broader story of the Town of Newcastle and its inhabitants.

Historic Special Districts: Those shown on the Official District Map of the Town of Newcastle, Maine as may be amended from time to time. The Official District Map is included in Article 1 of the Core Zoning Code.

Legislative Body: Voters of the Town of Newcastle at a duly-noticed Town Meeting.

Local Landmarks: Those properties, which may be located outside of the Historic Special Districts but which have significant architectural, social, cultural or historical value in their own right, and which have been designated as Local Landmarks as provided in Article 7 of this Ordinance. Only property owners or their agents/assigns may initiate a petition to designate their property as a Local Landmark.

Minor Alteration: Incidental changes or additions to a building which will neither result in substantial changes to any significant historic features nor obscure such features. In no event shall any change be deemed minor when, in the determination of the Planning Department, such change shall alter the historic character of the building.

New Construction: New construction includes the placement of a new Primary or Accessory Building on a site, whether the new building is post-and-beam construction or factory-built/manufactured.

Permitting Authority: The Planning Department or the Historic Preservation Review Board, as may be applicable.

Planning Department: The Town Planner or their designee.

Primary Building: Same as the definition found in Article 8 of the Core Zoning Code.

Principal Facade or Principal Elevation: The front of a building facing the street.

Proportions: The relationship of the size, shape, and location of one building element to all of the other elements; each architectural style typically has its own rules of proportion.

Projections: A part or feature of a building which extends out beyond the enclosing walls (for example, steps, porches, or enclosed entries, or bay windows, balconies, and cornices).

Public Realm: All public or civic lands including publicly-owned parks and open spaces, roads, sidewalks, rights-of-way, frontage zones, and water bodies.

Reconstruction: The act or process of depicting, through new construction, the form, features, and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time (usually using documentary or photographic evidence).

Renewable Energy Systems: Systems that harness energy from solar, geothermal and/or wind sources.

Repointing: To repair the joints of brickwork or masonry with mortar or cement.

Review Board: The Newcastle Historic Preservation Review Board, as established by Article 2 of this Ordinance.

Rhythm: An ordered, alternating, recurring pattern of solids (walls) to voids (windows and doors) in building facades along the street. The recurrent alternation of walls to windows and doors (solids to voids) along the front facade of a building establishes a pattern which can be perceived when observing the building from a distance.

Temporary: For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term Temporary shall have the same meaning as Temporary Structure, as outlined in Article 4, Section 9 of the Core Zoning Code.

An aerial, sepia-toned illustration of a historic town. A train is visible in the upper portion, and a large sailing ship is docked in the lower-left corner. The town is densely packed with buildings and streets. The text is overlaid on this background.

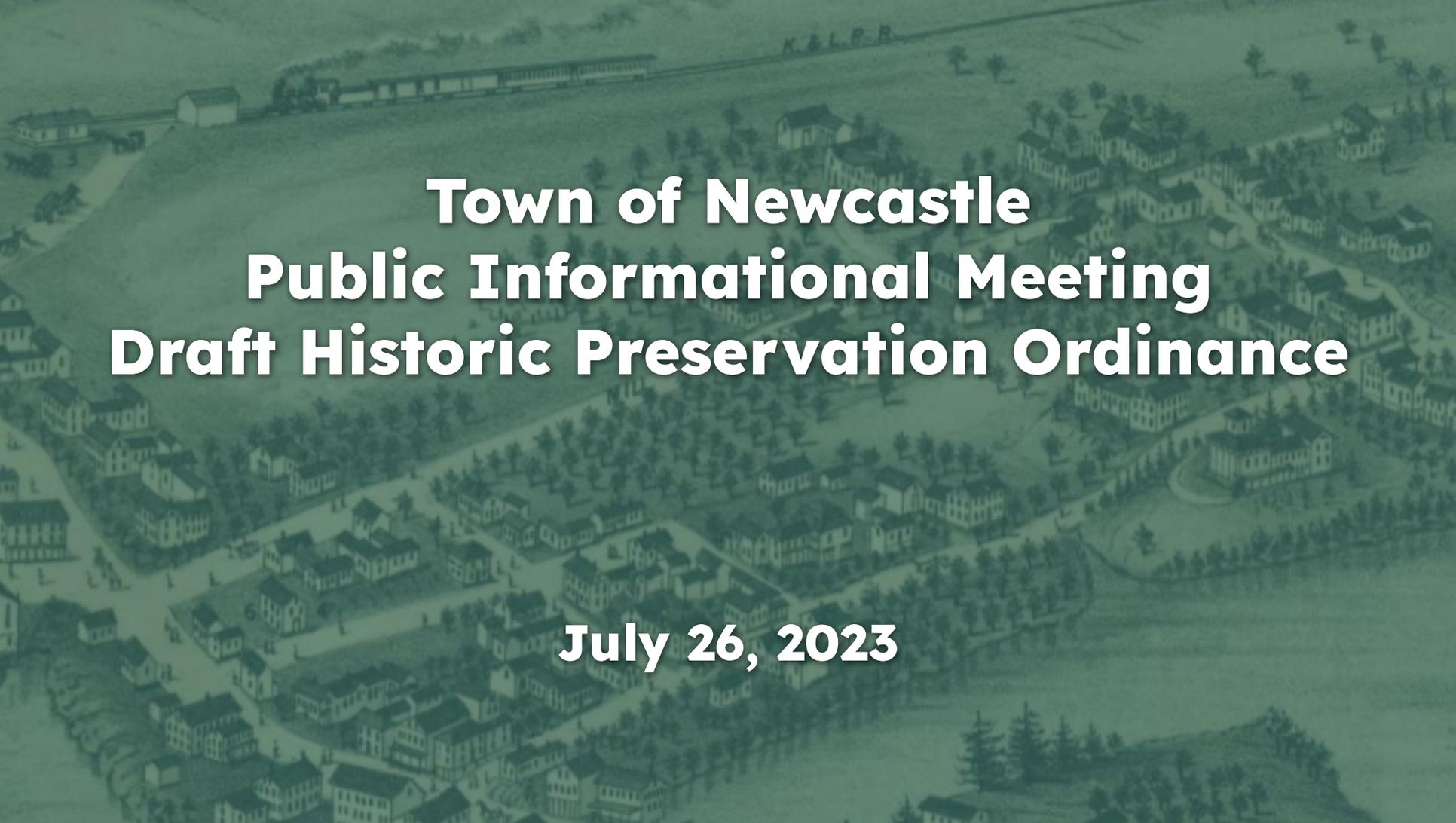
YOU'RE INVITED

Join the Town of Newcastle for a public informational meeting on historic preservation, where a draft Ordinance will be presented and discussed.

LINCOLN ACADEMY DINING COMMONS
07.26.2023 AT 6PM

If you have any questions about the draft Ordinance or this notice, please visit the Town's website, or scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera:



An aerial, sepia-toned illustration of a historic town. A train is visible in the upper left, moving along a track. The town is densely packed with buildings, streets, and trees. A river or canal is visible in the lower right. The text is overlaid in the center.

**Town of Newcastle
Public Informational Meeting
Draft Historic Preservation Ordinance**

July 26, 2023

What We'll Cover

- What is Historic Preservation?
- Myths + Facts
- How did we get here?
- Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance
- Next Steps
- Q+A

What is Historic Preservation?

- Broadly, a conversation about the past for the purposes of planning for the future
- For the purposes of this Ordinance, this means **identifying and regulating** buildings, structures, sites or districts with **cultural, social, architectural or historic value** in order to **communicate with future generations those places (including individual buildings or sites and whole neighborhoods) which have been important or significant to the broader story of the Town of Newcastle** and its inhabitants.

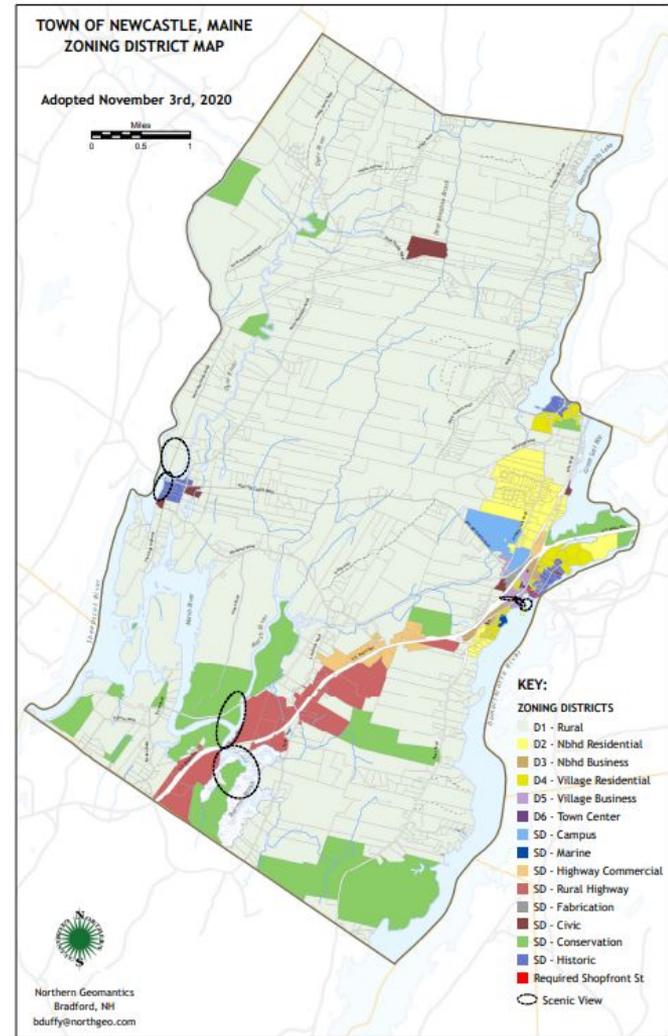
Myths + Facts

- Listing on the National Register of Historic Places prevents a building from being demolished **MYTH**
- Adopting a Demolition Delay or a Historic Preservation Ordinance locally is the tool most often used to prevent demolitions of identified structures **FACT**
- Inclusion in a local ordinance prevents me from painting my house **MYTH**
- Inclusion in a local ordinance prevents me from making any changes to my house **MYTH**

How did we get here?
Why is this happening now?

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- The proposed Ordinance will impact all properties within the adopted SD-Historic zoning district **(purple color)**
 - Sheepscot Village, Damariscotta Mills, and Glidden Street neighborhood



Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- Establishes a Historic Preservation Review Board that would be tasked with reviewing certain, designated projects
- Establishes 3 tiers of review:
 - Tier 1: Staff-level, administrative review by the Town Planner
 - Tier 2: Review and public hearing at a meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board
 - Tier 3: Same as Tier 2, but may also require technical assistance by a hired historic preservation consultant

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- Tier 1 (Staff Review) Projects:
 - The removal of materials and features that have no historical basis or create a false sense of historical development;
 - The replacement of architectural features that have no historical basis with ones that do;
 - The installation of missing historical materials and features, supported by documentation;
 - Repointing and other masonry repairs;
 - Construction or replacement of patios or decks where the majority of the patio or deck cannot be seen from the public realm;
 - Exterior placement of meters, vents, cable or telephone boxes, wiring, antennas, satellite dishes, and components of HVAC systems, when the placement is on the primary facade;
 - Addition, removal or replacement of cloth, canvas or acrylic awnings that otherwise comply with the relevant review standards;
 - Removal of deteriorated accessory buildings which are not original to the site or otherwise historically significant;
 - Installation of a temporary structure designed to promote safe access for individuals with disabilities, so long as the temporary structure can be removed and does not impact the essential form of the property;
 - The installation of fences or low walls of wood, stone, brick or similar (unless proposed in the Frontage Zone of the lot);
 - The replacement of exterior light fixtures and the installation of new light fixtures, including fixtures to illuminate signage.

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- Tier 2 (Review Board) Projects:
 - Replacement of architectural details when there will be a change in design or materials from the original or existing details;
 - The installation of fences or low walls of wood, stone, brick or similar, when proposed to be installed within the Frontage Zone of the lot;
 - The installation of Renewable Energy Systems;
 - Changes to roof lines, including rooftop additions, rooftop decks, or dormers.

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- Tier 3 (Review Board) Projects:
 - New Construction or Additions to buildings;
 - Demolition of any part of a structure;
 - Discovery of any archaeological resource on the site;
 - Moving of buildings;
 - New Additional Structures.

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- All projects (regardless of who reviews them) would be subject to the standards as outlined in the Ordinance
 - Alterations and Additions
 - Demolitions and Relocations
 - New Construction and Additions
 - Special standards for Renewable Energy Systems
- In general, all standards were based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Overview of Newcastle's Draft Ordinance

- Outlines a process for expanding or adding historic districts
- Outlines a process for establishing Local Landmarks (one-off buildings that may be outside of historic districts but which still add to the overall architectural, cultural, or historical character of Newcastle)

Next Steps

- Ad-Hoc Historic Preservation Ordinance Committee will meet again to discuss any changes that may need to be made as a result of this meeting
- Public hearing with the Planning Board will be scheduled
 - Changes that may need to be made as a result of that public hearing will be made
- Public hearing with the Selectboard will be scheduled
- Will be added to a Special Town Meeting Warrant

Q+A

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is historic preservation?

A: Broadly, historic preservation is a conversation about the past for the purpose of planning for the future. It typically involves identification of sites, buildings, or objects and protection of them for future generations. For the purposes of this Ordinance, it means identifying and regulating buildings, structures, sites or districts with cultural, social, architectural or historic value in order to communicate with future generations those places (including individual buildings or sites and whole neighborhoods) which have been important or significant to the broader story of the Town of Newcastle and its inhabitants.

Q: How did we get here? Why is this Ordinance happening now?

A: As you may know, the Town adopted a new Core Zoning Code on November 3, 2020 (which went into effect on January 1, 2021). Throughout the development of the Core Zoning Code, historic preservation was discussed but consensus was not reached on how to tackle the matter. Ultimately, it was decided that the SD-Historic zoning district boundaries captured what the community considered to be historic neighborhoods (at the time), and interim Demolition Delay standards were added (see [Article 7, Section 22: Demolition of Historic Assets in the Core Zoning Code](#)). It was agreed that a future Committee would be appointed to hold public meetings and discuss historic preservation in greater detail at a later date. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this initiative was put off until earlier this year when the Selectboard (at the recommendation of the Planning Board) appointed the five member Ad-Hoc Historic Preservation Committee for the purposes of holding public meetings, drafting an Ordinance, and returning to both the Planning Board and Selectboard with an Ordinance that could be adopted.

Q: What is considered historic [under this Ordinance]?

A: If approved, this Ordinance would apply to all properties within the SD-Historic zoning district (see the [Town's Official Zoning Map](#) for more information), regardless of the year buildings on the properties were built.

The draft Ordinance also provides standards for adding or expanding the SD-Historic district or establishing a Local Landmark. Properties eligible for designation are those associated with the history of Newcastle, the State of

Maine, or the country; those associated with important historic people or ideas; examples of architecture valuable for the study of a certain time period or for the history of development in Newcastle; those which contribute to the overall character of the historic district; and places listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Q: Will my property be impacted by the proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance?

A: As noted above, the Ordinance (if adopted) would apply to those buildings within the SD-Historic zoning district. You can use the Town's interactive zoning map to search for your address and see which zone you're located in:

<https://www.axisgis.com/NewcastleME/>

Q: My house isn't historic! Why am I included in the SD-Historic zoning district?

A: Properties which contribute to the overall character and visual continuity of the district were included within the boundaries of the SD-Historic district.

Q: Would this Ordinance require me to paint my house a certain color?

A: The Ordinance does not regulate paint color, except in instances where the painting of brick, stone or masonry is proposed (due to the difficulty of removing paint from such materials without damaging the historic building materials). Generally, painting of brick, stone or masonry would not be allowed. Painting of wood or other kinds of siding would be allowed under this Ordinance (though not required until such time as *you* were proposing to paint the building).

Q: Would this Ordinance prevent me from building a garage?

A: No, but you would need to demonstrate that your garage complies with the standards as outlined in Article 2, Section 3 (and Section 1, if an attached garage is proposed).

Q: Would this Ordinance prevent me from adding an addition?

A: No, but you would need to demonstrate that your addition complies with the standards as outlined in Article 2, Sections 1 and 3 of the draft Ordinance.

Q: Would this Ordinance prevent me from adding solar panels?

A: No, but they generally would not be able to be seen from the public realm (from sidewalks, adjacent public spaces, or from the water) or you would be encouraged to seek alternative places to put the panels (such as on the roof of an accessory building or barn, as ground-mounted panels in the rear yard, or to mostly obscure them from view by hiding them behind existing cupolas or other architectural features). If none of the above is technologically or economically feasible, you may be allowed to place them on the roof facing the public realm with Review Board approval.

Q: Would this Ordinance prevent me from demolishing my house?

A: Not necessarily, but you would need to prove one of the following: that the structure is not of historic significance based on findings from an architectural historian or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; that the structure represents an immediate hazard because of severe structural deficiencies; or, demonstrate that no prudent or feasible alternative exists (in which case, relocation of the building would be encouraged rather than demolition).

Q: Will this Ordinance force me to make changes to my property?

A: The Ordinance as written does not require you to make any changes that you were not otherwise planning. The building would be considered a “non-conforming” structure. When you propose a change to the building, then the provisions of this Ordinance would come into effect and you would need to comply with the relevant standards of review, specific to your project or proposal. For example, if you are proposing to add an addition, you would only be subject to the standards for additions - your existing windows could not be considered by the Review Board unless part of your proposal.

Q: Will this Ordinance prevent me from making changes to my property in the future?

A: No, but you would need to demonstrate that you have met the applicable standards of review for whatever change you’re proposing.

Q: Does this Ordinance have authority over the interior of my home?

A: No!

Q: My house is considered historic, but isn't in the SD-Historic zoning district. How do I protect it for future generations?

A: Not all historic properties were added to the SD-Historic district, especially if they are surrounded by vacant land or are not located near any other historic buildings. This Ordinance as drafted does give property owners the authority to subject their property to the provisions of the Ordinance by going through the process to designate their building as a Local Landmark. Local Landmarks would allow buildings to be subject of this Ordinance, without impacting the underlying zoning district of the overall property.

Q: Can a new building be built in the SD-Historic zoning district?

A: Yes, as long as it demonstrates compliance with Article 2, Section 3: Standards for New Construction and Additions (as well as the standards of any other Code or regulation, including the Core Zoning Code).

DRAFT