

Chapter 22
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

§ 22-1. Establishment; composition of members; terms.

§ 22-2. Purposes.

§ 22-3. Organization.

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Rochester 1-29-1987 by L.L. No. 2-1987. Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 22-1. Establishment; composition of members; terms.

There is hereby created an Historic Preservation Commission for the Town of Rochester. The Commission shall be composed of not less than seven members and not more than 15 members, all residents of the town, each appointed by the Town Board for a term of three years.

§ 22-2. Purposes.

- A. The Historic Preservation Commission shall undertake, by itself and with the help of any other individual or group, to survey the town for the purpose of determining which structures, buildings, sites or landscapes are worthy of preservation efforts because of their historical, cultural, architectural or other social value. The Commission shall create its own written standards, guidelines and definitions by which it will determine whether a building, structure, site of landscape is worthy of preservation efforts.
- B. The Commission shall file its survey(s) of historic resources in the office of the Town Clerk where it shall be a part of the historical records of the town.¹
- C. After completion of its survey of the town in whole or in part, the Commission shall undertake to establish a Historical Information and Review Service, the purposes of which are as follows:
 - (1) Review. At least once per month the Code Enforcement Officer shall provide the Historic Preservation Commission with a copy of all applications for a permit to build, change or alter any structure, building, site or landscape located within an Historic District, if one exists, or which has been designated by the Commission as worthy of preservation efforts. Thereafter, the Commission shall undertake to meet with such applicants and review their application and plans for change to such historically designated structure, building, site or landscape. The Commission, however, shall have no power to prohibit such plans if they are otherwise acceptable under law.²

¹ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

² Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).

- (2) Information. The Commission shall also undertake to provide an information service providing members of the public with information concerning:
- (a) The possibility of obtaining grant money for historic preservation purposes;
 - (b) The possibility of obtaining tax benefits because of work performed upon or not performed upon historically designated structures and buildings;
 - (c) Ways and means by which property owners may be able to obtain an historical analysis of a specific piece of property;
 - (d) Building, alteration, renovation and restoration techniques for historically or architecturally significant buildings or structures; and
 - (e) Any other options available to owners or residents of designated historic properties.

§ 22-3. Organization.³

The Commission shall take all action by majority vote. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission shall be appointed by the Town Board annually at its organizational meeting. The Commission shall keep written minutes of its meetings. Written minutes shall also be kept of every meeting in which the Commission reviews applications for a permit to build, demolish, renovate, change or restore any property located within an Historic District or which has been designated by the Commission to be worthy of preservation efforts. The Commission may also establish written rules regarding its internal procedure and policies.

³ Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I).