

Somers Point Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Applicant:

This letter of introduction is to acquaint you with the historic districts within the City of Somers Point and to assist you with the procedures that are required before work is done on your home or business.

There are three (3) Historic Village Zones in the City; they were established by Ordinance in December 1991 and include the Bayfront Historic District which has been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The intent of the Ordinance is to preserve and protect these historic areas. The City also established the Somers Point Historic Commission (HPC) to review applications and to advise the Planning and/or Zoning Boards as to the appropriateness of applications for development in these historic zones.

The Ordinance requires you as the applicant (anyone who needs a building permit) to appear at the HPC meeting so that your plans can be reviewed, recommendations can be made (if necessary) and a certificate of appropriateness can be completed and issued.

Your application may be considered a minor application if it involves aesthetic improvements such as replacement and/or repairing of your structure. Your application is considered a major application if it involves an addition, demolition, or new construction. Your packet sets forth guidelines that encourage design in keeping with the existing character of the district - in particular, section 114 - 102. You must present your final and complete plans including an elevation that specifies materials to be used. A representative(s) from the HPC is available to meet with you on an informal basis if you would like to discuss your project prior to presenting your application to the Building Department. There is no fee required for appearance at the HPC meetings.

Applications must be presented to the Building Department ten (10) days prior to the Commission meeting. After the Commission receives your application, you will receive a written notice that will indicate the type of application that you have and the time and date for your presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission. Commission meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Conference Room of Somers Point City Hall. After you receive notice of the date of your presentation, according to the Ordinance (section 114-208), it is the applicant's responsibility to advertise this meeting in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The HPC looks forward to meeting and working with each applicant so that together we can preserve the integrity of the historic zones in the City of Somers Point.