

**Historic Main Street - HPC Public Comments for the BOT**  
**October 7, 2024**

Good evening, members of the Board of Trustees. My name is Sarah Lorang, and I am Chair of the Town's Historic Preservation Commission. Speaking on behalf of our Commission, we are asking for your support in designating the Historic Preservation Commission as a referral source for building permit applications within Lyons' Historic Downtown area. Specifically, we are seeking to review permits involving demolition, new construction, or exterior modifications.

The historic character of our Main Street and surrounding areas is not only a vital part of our community identity but also a driver of local tourism and economic vitality. Under current design guidelines and zoning regulations, most of Main Street's historically significant buildings face a real risk of demolition or alteration in ways that could permanently erase their historic features. Without safeguards, our unique architectural and cultural heritage is vulnerable to irreversible changes that would strip Lyons of its distinctive character.

Until more robust protections can be established, we propose this immediate step to ensure the Commission can provide input on projects within the Historic Downtown area. By allowing the HPC to review these permits, we can work proactively to advise on ways to maintain the historic integrity of our downtown, supporting thoughtful preservation while enabling progress. Naturally, should any member of the HPC ever have business before the town regarding the historical downtown area, they would of course be required to recuse themselves from the proceedings.

We look forward to collaborating with the Board, staff, and our community to achieve a balanced approach that honors Lyons' rich history and paves the way for a vibrant future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

