



Memorandum

Planning Board

TO: Mayor Lee Kyriacou and City Council Members

FROM: Planning Board Chairman Gunn and Planning Board Members

RE: Local Law to Amend Chapter 134 concerning Historic Preservation

DATE: January 15, 2020

As requested the Planning Board reviewed the Local Law to amend Chapter 134 of the City of Beacon Code concerning Historic Preservation at their January 14, 2020 meeting. City Planner John Clarke reviewed amendments proposed and discussion took place with regard to preservation of the interior of a building when special historic or architectural features exist, i.e. the interior of the Howland Center, the Post Office murals, buildings with original tin ceilings, etc. Members discussed the possibility of protecting certain interiors by setting a different standard for buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Review took place about the process that places a building on the National Register, and discussion took place about the process under the City Code for nominating and preserving specimen trees or landscape features. After a lengthy discussion, members unanimously voted in favor of the proposed amendments to Chapter 134 of the City Code, and asked that consideration be given to protecting interiors of buildings that are open to the public and listed on the National Historic Register by amending the language of proposed Section 134-6.B(1) to exclude such properties from the exemption for a Certificate of Appropriateness. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.