

**Offices of the Planning
Commission**

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Town Offices
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Design Review Board

December 15, 2020

To property owners in the Dorset Design District:

It is a privilege and responsibility to own property in Dorset Village, established in 1761 and described by the global media company Culture Trip as “the most beautiful town in Vermont” in 2017. The historic village is beloved by residents and visitors alike for its historic character and peaceful atmosphere. A major factor in the preservation of the historic character of Dorset was the designation of the Village as part of the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

The Dorset Design Review Board (DRB) is charged with reviewing building applications in the Design Overlay District, and we are passionate about maintaining the historic character of Dorset. We are sending this reminder to property owners about *their* responsibility to preserve and enhance that character.

In general, for the Design Area, the DRB’s purpose is to:

- Develop Bylaw guidelines
- Review applications to ensure they comply with current guidelines
- Assist in preserving the unique and distinctive architectural identity of the Design District by supporting the policies for Historic Preservation as outlined in the Town Plan

In order to avoid problems, the general rule of thumb is this: if you are planning any exterior changes to your buildings or landscape, please first check with Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator, to find out if you need a DRB review and a zoning permit. Routine repair and maintenance does not require review, but please just ask to be sure! The rules are not meant to stymie your enjoyment of your property, but rather to allow that while protecting the historic character of the District.

Property owners must conform to the existing Design Overlay District criteria in Chapter 9 of the By-Laws. (available on the town website, www.dorsetvt.org)

Please contact Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator with any questions – no question is too trivial! 802-362-4571, x5, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 am – 4 pm. Please do not contact members of the Design Review Board directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Design Review Board
Lindy Bowden, Jim Clubb, Arnie Gottlieb,
Michele Pagan, Ruth Tanenhaus, and Kit Wallace (chair)