

September 9, 2025

Planning Board
City of Stamford

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear members of the Stamford Planning Board:

I am writing on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the ***Stamford 2035 Comprehensive Plan***. As you know, the City of Stamford became a Certified Local Government (CLG) in May of 2011. This designation sets up a partnership between the city, our office and the Department of the Interior National Park Service. This has provided ongoing technical assistance and funding for historic preservation activities. The city is currently benefitting from a non-matching CLG grant to develop an informational brochure summarizing regulations and incentives for historic preservation projects.

I would like to commend you on your commitment in the plan to strategies that celebrate historic resources and neighborhoods. As you complete this planning process, please consider how the proposed goals can be implemented compatibly with historic preservation goals and how the Stamford Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC), as the CLG historic preservation commission, can help resolve any potential unintended inconsistencies.

Specifically, Strategy 3.4 seeks to “expand on incentives in the Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) to offer grants or tax incentives to renovate historically significant single-family homes instead of replacing them with new construction,” while Strategy 2.1 seeks to “permit and promote Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and cluster housing in very low-density neighborhoods to provide flexible, independent living options.” Because some of the city’s low-density neighborhoods are also historic districts the HPAC would be a valuable addition to the parties tasked with implementing this strategy as it applies to historic places.

The SHPO fully supports and financially incentivizes affordable housing and thoughtful development, and we think that HPAC involvement will help the City carry out its development and housing goals while recognizing the valuable role that your historic resources can play in these strategies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Economic and Community Development

cc: Caroline Simmons, Mayor
Barry Hersh, Interim Chair, Stamford Historic Preservation Advisory Commission