

TOP COMMENTS FROM AUGUST 24, 2009 PLANNING DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WHAT WORKS	VOTES
Economic viability of preservation is critical to the economic health of the City	8
Preservation of Frederick's historic character	3
Knowledgeable staff, easily accessible and responsive	3
Providing process helps maintain and preserve Frederick's charm	2
Aesthetics and charm, Frederick wouldn't be the same without it	2
Saved downtown Frederick from being removed like downtown Rockville	2
Historic district planners assist in critical and noncritical aspects of project planning, no fee for service	1
Administrative approval	1
Positive impact on economic development	1
Staff is accessible, knowledgeable and helpful	1
Value of historic district	0
Staff meets with applicants	0
Administrative approval	0
This meeting	0
Increase the # of meetings	0
Preservation of historically significant structures, focus on significant	0
Staff approval process	0
WHAT DOES NOT WORK	VOTES
Difficulty for homeowner (process, guidelines, what is affordable, level of submittals)	19
Unpredictable project costs, need more affordable options for building materials	16
Qualifications of HP Commissioners (guideline v. mandate, opinion-based, lectures, subjective)	14
Need for additional communication/education	8
Public relations issues- level of animosity	7
Appear to focus on preservation only- not the evolution of a building to make it useful for today (dormers, energy efficiency)	6
Need to be much more aggressively user friendly so the relationship is not immediately adversarial	5
Process seems to be arbitrary	5
Decisions are not consistent	5
People's misunderstanding/mistrust of the HPC (real or perceived) leads people to avoid the process.	4
Use of newer products/doesn't consider economic impact	3
Guidelines seem to be subjective, strict interpretation	3
Perception of inconsistency in the process	2
Not all downtown buildings of equal historic character-need two standards	2
Takes too long	2
Guidelines- apply fairly	0
HPC is punitive and disrespectful	0
Lack of understanding of guidelines and process by HPC, residents, insufficient outreach and education	0