

## Burlington Design Advisory Board

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To: City Councilors  
From: Ron Wanamaker, Chair  
Date: May 10, 2010  
RE: Design Advisory Board Annual Report

I am pleased to submit this report for the year 2009-2010. The purpose and charge of the Design Advisory Board is to ensure the quality of design of development that occurs within the City. Our major task, therefore, is to review the design elements of development applications. We are an advisory board, as implied by our name. Our comments and recommendations are forwarded to the Development Review Board (DRB) for their consideration in deliberating applications.

Our board's membership has evolved over the past year into a group with professional expertise in architecture, construction, transportation, building inspection, planning and historic restoration. Our members are very dedicated to quality design and historic preservation within the City, education and assistance with technical questions as appropriate, as well as a fair and respectful application process. We also have alternate members appointed to the Board who are available to sit in during absences or vacancies.

Up to this date, we have reviewed 35 agenda items in all wards of the City; projects ranging from owner-occupied residential to investment, institutional, and commercial buildings. Some major projects reviewed in the past 12 months included the review of a 59-unit senior housing development, one 36-unit and one 17 unit affordable housing development, a 24-unit multi family housing development, a new downtown hotel/restaurant, a proposed four storey office building facing the waterfront, the conversion of a waste management building to office/educational, exterior renovations and energy retrofit for an elementary school, and review of a proposed highway re-alignment for the Air National Guard; a project that has been determined to disrupt significant archaeological resources.

Our charge does include other tasks. Within our board is the Historic Preservation Review Committee, a three member board acting on behalf of Burlington's Certified Local Government. The HPRC acts to actively identify, evaluate and protect local buildings, structures, districts, landscapes and archaeological sites of historic significance. Acting in a partnership between the community, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service, the HPRC secures grant funding for scholarship and research, reviews projects subject to Section 106 review, and reviews and makes recommendations for properties under consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. We have also been involved with incorporating our collective expertise in the implementation of design related provisions of the adopted Comprehensive Development Ordinance.

For the coming year, the Board hopes to continue in upholding the design standards that keep the City beautiful and contributing to the efforts in implementing the expanded design related zoning regulations.

I thank you for your time.