

# Chatham Borough Historic Preservation Commission 2015 Annual Report

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**Members of the Commission who served in 2015 were:**

Colleen Foley, Chair	Patti Gavalakis
Mindy Pitonyak	Eleanor Smith
Bill Tackaberry	Jim Greener

**Our 2015 agenda included the following significant activities:**

- 1. Applications:** In 2015, the Commission reviewed various applications related to properties located in the Historic District. Those applications addressed exterior changes to properties, installation of cellular facilities, and signage-related requests. Among the more novel requests was a proposal to install a restored anchor from a merchant marine ship at 127 Main Street. The applicant in that matter is considering the Commission's input and will seek any needed approvals when the project is finalized.
- 2. Signage:** The Commission reviewed and commented on numerous applications seeking approval for signage in the Historic District. Changes in the processing of sign applications (using email to distribute applications and solicit comments) have significantly improved the Commission's ability to provide timely input on proposed signage. The Commission, however, continues to be concerned about enforcement of requirements for existing signage in the Historic District. Specifically, the Commission has noted several instances of placards, temporary signs and other materials in storefronts that remain long after they should be removed.
- 3. Jan Westfall Preservation Flag Award:** The Commission identified the Parrott Mill renovation and restoration as the recipient of the Flag Award. The presentation of the award will take place at a Council meeting in March, 2016.
- 4. Long-Term Projects:** In 2015, the Commission's assistance was sought regarding two significant properties located outside of the Historic District. Those requests suggest there may be a need to consider expanding the Historic District to include other structures or neighborhoods. The Commission intends to consider this broader question, and will raise it in the context of the Master Plan development process. As for the specific requests, in the first instance, the owners of 228 Fairmount Avenue met multiple times with the Commission seeking input and assistance regarding their request to the Zoning Board for certain variances. The Commission ultimately prepared an advisory opinion in support of the requested variances and provided that advisory opinion to the Zoning Board. In the second instance, several members of the public attended the Commission's December meeting, and requested the Commission's assistance concerning possible development of a portion of the Stanley Congregational Church property located on Fairmount Avenue. The Commission is very interested in any plans for development of this site, and has invited the developer to make a presentation to the Commission concerning the proposed development. That invitation has not yet been accepted, but the Commission will continue to monitor plans for development of the property.