

## CHAPTER 10

# COMMUNITY DESIGN & CHARACTER

Much of the charm and character of Barrington is the result of quality design and construction of new development, public improvements and rehabilitation/renovation of older properties. Protecting this attractive character depends on a unified plan for community design, including architecture, signage, landscape, and streetscape.

Upon adoption of the Zoning Ordinance on March 19, 2001, specific design guidelines were established for the following zoning districts: B-1 General Business Service, B-4 Village Center, B-R Mixed Business Residential, R-7 Two-Family Residential, and R-8 General Residential. All other non-single family zoning districts follow the general design guidelines that are identified as the Appearance Code of the Zoning Ordinance. The established design guidelines apply to exterior modifications, including new construction, additions, and exterior remodeling.

The Historic Preservation Overlay District and Design Guidelines were established in 2001 to protect and preserve historical areas of the Village and individual structures and sites within this area which have historic, architectural or cultural significance. It is intended that any new development, redevelopment or subdivision of lots within the Historic Preservation Overlay District is compatible with the character of the District. Moreover, the district creates a distinctive appeal among the Village's central historic neighborhoods and enhances property values. All exterior modifications to structures within the district, including both residential and commercial properties, must follow the established Historic District Design Guidelines.

The following objectives provide overall direction for community design and character in Barrington.

1. Structures and sites of architectural, cultural or historical significance should continue to be protected by inclusion in the Historic Preservation Overlay District.
2. The historical and architectural significance of the Village should be celebrated.
3. The current design guidelines for non-residential districts should be reexamined to ensure that they provide clear direction to developers. The creation of district-specific design guidelines, like those of the B-1, B-4 and B-R Districts, should be considered for all other non-residential districts.
4. The appearance of signs, buildings and lots along Route 14 should be improved through adherence to the zoning and design standards, enforcement and the gradual elimination of nonconforming uses.
5. Improvements to older commercial buildings should be encouraged in order to preserve historic exterior facades and to increase building code compliance.
6. Traffic circulation objectives should be balanced with the goal of creating walkable neighborhoods that are designed and oriented towards pedestrians in the Village Center and its peripheral districts.
7. As redevelopment of the Village Center occurs, plans should include unique public spaces that help promote social interaction and a sense of community.

8. The existing streetscape design elements as established in the Village Center Master Plan should be maintained, including the decorative paving, landscaping, planters and tree grates, benches, trash cans, decorative street poles, hanging banners.
9. Enhancements to new and existing developments that would complement the existing Village streetscape elements should be encouraged.
10. The pedestrian experience for the Lageshulte artisan district and James Street artisan district should be consistent with that of the Village Center, and should include lighting, sidewalks, bicycle racks, and landscaping.
11. The Village has been designated as a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Every effort should be taken to preserve key and significant trees (as defined by the Village’s Tree Preservation Ordinance) on development sites. Where preservation cannot take place, a replacement and mitigation plan should be approved and implemented as part of the overall landscape plan.
12. The siting of new telecommunication towers should be sensitive to the existing character of the proposed site and surrounding properties.