

CITY OF MILFORD
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ordinance was adopted during a meeting of Milford City Council on January 27, 2025:

Ordinance 2024-15
Amendment to City of Milford Code
Chapter 230 Zoning/Historic District Commission

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Milford are charged with the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Milford; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council desire to amend the zoning code of the City of Milford to establish a Historic District Commission with no regulatory authority, whom would be tasked with developing a historic district ordinance for the Planning Commission and City Council's consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission considered this ordinance at a duly noticed meeting on January 21, 2025 to allow for public comment and review of the amendment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on January 27, 2025, notice for which was published in the Delaware State News on January 3, 2025, at which time all interested members of the public were given an opportunity to comment on this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending the Zoning Code to establish a Historic District Commission is in the best interest of the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Milford hereby ordains:

Section 1. Purpose: The Zoning Code of the City of Milford is hereby amended to add definitions regarding historic districts and amended to add language to create a Historic District Commission.

Section 2. Section 230-4 is hereby amended.

Section 3. Article XV and Section 230-62 are hereby created.

Section 4. Strikethrough text denotes a deletion; underlined and bold text denotes an addition.

Chapter 230-4. – Definitions and word usage.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - A federal list of cultural resources worthy of preservation, authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as part of a national program to coordinate and support public efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect the nation's historic and archaeological resources. The national register program is administered by the state historic preservation office and by the National Park Service under the department of the interior.

HISTORIC DISTRICT - The geographic areas of Milford that have been designated by the City of Milford, and graphically illustrated on the official zoning map of the City of Milford, as possessing a significant concentration of properties, buildings, structures or objects associated with and representative of the historical development of Milford and which meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) Exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of Milford, Kent County, Sussex County, the State of Delaware, or the United States of America; or**
- (b) Is associated with the lives of persons of historic importance or with events of historic significance to Milford, Kent County, Sussex County, the State of Delaware, or the United States of America; or**
- (c) Embodies distinguishing architectural characteristics which are invaluable resources for the study, understanding and appreciation of periods, styles, society, methods of construction, craftsmanship and the use of indigenous materials; or**
- (d) Represents the notable work of master builders, designers or architects whose designs, construction and craftsmanship have been recognized as distinctive and whose work has influenced the period of time in which they lived.**

ARTICLE XV - Historic Preservation.

230-62. - Historic District Commission established.

- A. Creation and purpose. There shall be a Historic District Commission for the purpose of assisting the Planning Commission and City Council in developing a historic preservation ordinance. The historic preservation ordinance may or may not provide regulations in reviewing applications for architectural review certifications; for making recommendations for designation of historic district zones; for establishing guidelines for the preservation and conservation of historic district zones; for advising other officials and departments in the City of Milford in matters concerning historic preservation; for reviewing all proposed National Register nominations in the City of Milford; for acting as a liaison on behalf of the City of Milford to individuals and organizations concerned with historic preservation; and for carrying out programs of historic preservation education in the City of Milford.**
- B. Appointment. The Commission shall consist of five members nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council, who are residents of the City of Milford and who have demonstrated special interest, experience, or knowledge in history, architecture, or historic preservation. Two of the members, to the extent available, shall be professional members representing the professions of architecture, history, archaeology, planning, historic preservation or related disciplines. At least two members shall be residents of the district, and at least one shall represent a business within the district.**
- C. Term. The members of the Commission shall serve for three-year staggered terms. Vacancies shall be filled within 60 days in accordance with 230-62(B).**
- D. Organization. The Commission shall determine the times and frequency of its meetings, which shall be held at least monthly; however, if no agenda items are available or requested 10 working days prior to the time of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the City may cancel the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The Commission shall establish bylaws for its general procedure, which shall include a section addressing conflicts of interest.**

Section 5. Dates.

Introduction to City Council: January 13, 2025

Planning Commission Public Hearing: January 21, 2025

City Council Public Hearing: January 27, 2025

Section 6. Effective.

This Ordinance is effective ten days following its adoption.

To review a complete list of City of Milford Ordinances or the City of Milford Code, please access the City of Milford website at www.cityofmilford.com or contact the City Clerk's Office at 302-422-1111.

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