

## Press Release

September 23, 2016

### **The Southborough Historical Commission proposes a National Register Historic District in the Main Street downtown area.**

Come to an informal informational meeting (including refreshments) at the Community House, 28 Main Street on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

This meeting will inform owners of properties in the proposed district on the process and timeline for voting on the district. It will present them with the facts about listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which recognizes that the area is important to the history of the community, and allows owners of income-producing properties certain tax incentives for rehabilitation.

This proposal was initiated by Main Street residents in 2010. The Southborough Historical Commission has now received permission from Massachusetts Historical Commission to proceed towards a vote on the proposal by property owners.

The Main Street area has precious collection of historic buildings, which include numerous 19<sup>th</sup> century houses in Federal, Greek Revival and Victorian styles, the English parish-style St. Marks Church (1806/1858) and Pilgrim Church (1870), municipal buildings, commercial buildings, a renowned private school, the Town Common and Old Burial Ground. The proposed Main Street Historic District includes a total of 73 properties along Main Street extending from the railroad line at the east end, to the Fay School at the west end. It would also include some properties running south along Latisquama and Middle Roads.

The Southborough Historical Commission firmly believes that because a National Register Historic District is a purely honorary designation, and DOES NOT impose any restrictions on property owners, it would benefit Southborough by recognizing the special character and significance of the Main Street area, and would be an ideal way to foster a sense of community pride in our town. No Restrictions apply to owners when using private funds, or as long as state or federal funding is not involved. Also there are no restrictions beyond local regulations and ordinances already in place.

Owners in the proposed district will have an opportunity to make their wishes known, after an Informational Public Meeting at the Town House in Southborough on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Southborough Historical Commission will host this meeting, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission will give a presentation on the benefits of a National Register Historic District. At a later date, property owners will be invited to send letters to the Massachusetts Historical

Commission on their preference (or not) for a district. If a simple majority approves, the district can go ahead.

For more information go to [www.southboroughhistoricalcommission.org](http://www.southboroughhistoricalcommission.org) and the [Main Street Flyer](#)