

## Historical Commission

The main role of the Carlisle Historical Commission is to act as the Historic District Commission for the Carlisle Historic District, which primarily includes the town center, and to act as the Historical Commission for the town. The membership of the Historical Commission is prescribed by Article 9 of the Carlisle General Bylaws and consists of 5 members and up to 3 alternate members to be appointed by the Select Board.

The Historic District and Historical Commission were created to preserve and protect the distinctive characteristics and architecture of buildings and places that are significant in the history of Carlisle; to maintain and improve the settings for such buildings and places; and to encourage designs compatible with the character of the Historic District.

During 2024, the Carlisle Historical Commission reviewed 7 applications, issued **6 Certificates of Appropriateness (COA)** (with 1 application withdrawn) and **0 Certificates of Non-Applicability (CNA)** and continued hearings for 0 applications into the year 2025. See the table below for applications reviewed by the Commission.

Property	Owner/Applicant	Project	Certificate
66 Westford St	Town of Carlisle/ESC	Installation of native plants at Town Hall flower beds	<withdrawn>
42 Lowell Street	Town of Carlisle/Friends of Center Park	Installation of 8x10 storage shed	COA
		Installation of proposed picnic table and deck	<not approved>
43-45 Bedford Road	Julie McQueen	Renovations to existing barn	COA
41 Lowell Street	Town of Carlisle/Police Department	Additions and Renovations to existing Police Station	COA
27 School Street	The First Religious Society of Carlisle	Reissued new fence with revisions	COA
62 Lowell Street	Nathan Liles	Renovations to existing roof	COA
31 Lowell Street	Town of Carlisle/Veterans and Celebrations Committee	Replace 8 missing flag holders at Central Burying Ground	COA

The Commission held informal discussions on most of the applications before the formal hearing – a process that the Commission continues to encourage as it is an opportunity to provide important guidance to the applicant and has regularly resulted in streamlining the hearing process.

### Other Activities

- Co-Chair Krissy O’Shea continued to oversee the restoration of the Central Burying Ground, including preservation of headstones and restoration of the Litchfield Seat. Funding originally earmarked for stone entrance pillars has been reassigned for the restoration of additional headstones. The Community Preservation Commission has approved this change.
- Co-Chair Krissy O’Shea represented the Historical Commission on the Community Preservation Committee.
- Alanna Lynch began as the Commission’s administrative assistant in April.
- The Historical Commission began researching the process for establishing a Demolition Delay Bylaw for the Town of Carlisle.
- The Historical Commission attended the Second Annual Carlisle Route to Sustainability Day on April 27th.

### Committee Membership

- Krissy O’Shea and Ben Herter continued to serve as the Co-chairs of the Historical Commission.
- Ed Rolfe and Colby Mauke continued to serve as full members of the Historical Commission.
- Sara Cassidy Smith continued to serve as the Planning Board liaison to the Historical Commission.
- Annette Lee continued to serve as an alternate member of the Historical Commission.
- Chip Dewing’s term as an alternate member expired.
- Long-time Commission member and District resident Jack O’Connor passed away on December 18th.

The Historical Commission extends its sincere thanks to the members who have left the Commission and appreciation to all those who have worked diligently to preserve the historic character of Carlisle, and particularly to the residents of the Historic District for their appreciation of the historical importance of Town Center.

Co-Chairs: Krissy O’Shea and Ben Herter

Members: Ed Rolfe, Colby Mauke and Sara Cassidy Smith

Alternate Members: Annette Lee, Chip Dewing and Jack O’Connor