

February 5, 2009

MEETING RE: PROPOSED CHURCH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2009
TIME: 5:00-6:30 pm
LOCATION: The Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts (Next to City Hall, Church St.)
RSVP TO: Ron Redmond, 865-7254 or ron.redmond.vt@gmail.com

Dear Downtown Property Owner:

On behalf of the Church Street Marketplace and Planning & Zoning Department, we'd like to invite you to a 1 ½ hour meeting on Tuesday, February 24 from 5 pm to 6:30 pm at **The Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts (next to City Hall.)** The meeting's purpose is to share recent research and information about the proposed Church Street Historic District nomination with property owners and interested community and to discuss with you the benefits for properties located in these districts.

The City was awarded a grant in 2008 for the preparation of a National Register Nomination for the Church Street Historic District (Church Street and its side streets). The quest was to accomplish a long held goal: Formal recognition and designation of Burlington's historic mercantile district. As many of you may know, there are several existing districts in our downtown including:


- Buildings surrounding City Hall Park (including the Flynn Theatre, City Hall, etc.)
- The three buildings at the head of Church Street (1 Church Street, 2 Church Street and the Unitarian Church).
- Buildings around and including the Wells-Richardson building on College Street.

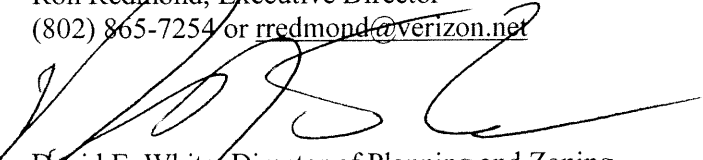
Along with the obvious benefits for tourism and marketing, income producing properties in such districts are eligible for federal tax credits. And, given that Burlington has had design review rules and regulations in place for more than thirty years, having your property in this proposed district would not add new levels of review.

Speakers at the February 24 meeting will include Nancy Boone, Acting Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer; Chris Cochran, Tax Credit Program Coordinator, Division for Community Planning and Revitalization; and Mary O'Neil, Department of Planning and Zoning. They will discuss what historic district nomination means, how properties are evaluated, the process, and benefits to property owners within the proposed Church Street Historic District.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, February 24 at **The Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts.** If you plan on attending the meeting, please RSVP to my colleague, Mimi Gutchell, at 802-865-5381 or via email at mgutchell@ci.burlington.vt.us

Sincerely,


Ron Redmond, Executive Director
(802) 865-7254 or rredmond@verizon.net


David E. White, Director of Planning and Zoning
(802) 865-7194 or DEWhite@ci.burlington.vt.us