SUMMARY OF MAIN CHANGES TO HISTORICAL (changed to HISTORIC) PRESERVATION ORDINANCE. February 2015.

* Allows HPC to approve or reject COA ( Certificate of Appropriateness) applications, BUT if HPC rejects an application, and if the applicant desires, the HPC will forward to next city council meeting as an “appeal”. This has the advantage of conforming to state law and allows us to become a Certified Local Govt. (which gives access to grants and scholarships).
* Allows HPC members to serve more than 2 terms if a replacement cannot be found
* Removed invalid references to ‘planning and zoning’ and much unnecessary text around changes to a district map. Ordinance allows for changes to a district.
* Removed detailed procedures around HPC meetings. Ordinance allows HPC to institute rules, procedures and bylaws as necessary.
* Added state mandated procedures around adoption of districts ( submission of report to state etc)
* Added mandate that tenants of governmental property in a designated district must follow COA process.
* Changed wording such that description of designated historic districts can be added to current ordinance. Wording previously indicated a separate ordinance for each district. Just made it clearer.
* Added more detail to what constitutes “neglect” of property under maintenance section. Also changes the procedure for dealing with such neglect.