



Ridgefield Historic District Commission (HDC)
400 Main Street
Ridgefield CT

October 20, 2025

RE: Proposed East Ridge Road Area Local Historic District

The Board of Directors of the Ridgefield Historical Society wishes to acknowledge the efforts undertaken in a study report to explore the creation of a possible third, state-statute-based local historic district in the heart of the town. One of the Ridgefield Historical Society's core roles is to *preserve, interpret, and foster public knowledge of Ridgefield's architectural heritage*. Our Historic Preservation Committee is asked from time to time by the Town of Ridgefield, Planning and Zoning, and the Architectural Advisory/Village District Committee to weigh in on matters concerning changes to the historic built environment of the town as well as provide historic research. It usually revolves around the potential impact to loss of our character and quality of design. The Historic Preservation Committee is also a co-author and, with the Historic District Commission, a consulting party to Ridgefield's state statute-based Demolition Delay Ordinance.

The goal of historic preservation encourages the retention of historic character, both in architecture *and* its setting. The proposed East Ridge Road Area historic district is an excellent collection of high-style and modest residential period buildings coexisting with carefully integrated, town-owned civic properties. Most of the area has retained this character for well over a century and remains largely intact. Given the historical significance of East Ridge, we strongly urge property owners in the proposed district and the Board of Selectpersons to support and adopt this area as a local historic district. This effort will help continue to safeguard our town's rich heritage for future generations.

Careful consideration of the value of the historic character of the south side of Main Street over fifty years ago has helped retain that special feel that might have been lost to unchecked changes. This is an excellent opportunity to use a state-statute-based process to preserve our cherished streetscapes, particularly in today's development environment, where new construction does not always fit in well with, or respect the historic built environment. We appreciate the consideration and continue to work with all town agencies in careful stewardship of what has made the town so desirable for countless generations.

Respectfully,

Board of Directors, Ridgefield Historical Society