



TOWN OF GROTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MARK R. OEFINGER, AICP
TOWN MANAGER
MOEFINGER@GROTON-CT.GOV

45 FORT HILL ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT 06340
TELEPHONE (860) 441-6630 FAX (860) 441-6638
WWW.GROTON-CT.GOV

February 18, 2016

Representative John Scott
Connecticut House Republican Office
L.O.B. Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: House Bill No. 5179

Dear Representative Scott:

The Town of Groton is in support of House Bill No. 5179 which would authorize Historic Properties Commissions to charge reasonable fees for the processing of Certificate of Appropriateness applications.

The Town of Groton Historic District Commission was established in January 1975 under CGS 7-147c – 7-147k and is responsible for the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness within three separate and distinct Historic Districts. The Commission meets twice a month to review preliminary applications, to conduct public hearings and to issue Certificates of Appropriateness. There is no fee associated with the applications.

The Commission typically processes 50 applications per year. The town bears the costs for required legal advertisements, postage, and staff attendance at all meetings. The cost for legal advertisement and postage is approximately \$2,500.00 per year and staff time can amount to upwards of \$4,000.00 per year.

Groton's fee structure for its other land use commissions reflects only the cost of postage and advertising. If allowed to charge fees for the applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, I anticipate using this same model.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Oefinger, AICP
Town Manager

cc: Kevin Quinn
Jonathan Reiner
Historic District Commission