



**Design Review Board
MEMO**

October 15th, 2009

RE: Renovation of Historic Windsor Building, West Acton Village

To Whom it Concerns:

The Design Review Board strongly supports the proposal to renovate the Windsor Building, a former Fire Station, in West Acton Village for the following reasons:

- We believe successful villages have multiple destination points for pedestrians; this restoration proposes to create one and by so doing will contribute to commercial viability of small business in the area and potentially keeping surrounding residential real estate values up;
- We believe it's very important for the Town to show respect and care for its architectural, historic heritage and this proposal proposes to do just that. One can make the argument that the towns that do this the most are consistently viewed as the most desirable places to live. Over 100 years old, the Windsor Building is on the Cultural Resources list and was designed and built by John Hoar, who built several other houses on Windsor Avenue. Restoration of this property provides a unique opportunity to make this link, educating the public about how Acton grew and developed.
- The DRB believes the plans which include installing front doors that will be operational, so that the building can "open up" to the street for special events, such as a library book sale or non-profit fundraisers and other civic events, are well thought out, and provide desperately-needed flexible public meeting space. The interior work proposed is quite reasonable given the Town's needs, including handicapped-accessible restroom and small kitchenette; all important features to encourage multiple public use in this village district with great potential.

We appreciate your interest in this project and your support in making this creative vision a reality.

Sincerely,

The Design Review Board