



January 3, 2020

Dear Community Members:

The [Montclair Historic Preservation Commission](#) would like to express its gratitude to the residents of the Oakcroft and Wheeler Street areas for their participation in the public hearing process to consider designation of the two Township neighborhoods as [Local Historic Districts](#). The high level of public participation with the Commission is appreciated.

The Commission is scheduled to conclude the public hearing on the two nomination proposals at their meeting on January 9, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Montclair Municipal Building.

The Commission has received letters of protest from 61 of the 113 property owners (54%) in the Oakcroft area expressing opposition to the designation of the area as a Local Historic District.

The Commission has received letters of protest from 50 of the 97 property owners (52%) in the Wheeler Street area expressing opposition to the designation of the area as a Local Historic District.

After consideration of this protest opposition, I will offer a motion at the meeting on January 9, 2020 to my fellow Commissioners to withdraw the pending nominations before the Commission and recommend the Oakcroft and Wheeler Street areas not be designated.

The Commission will use this experience to advance historic preservation in the Township, as directed by Montclair Code Chapter 347, Article XXIII, by continuing to:

- Retain professionals to survey buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts located within the Township and to research and evaluate them for their significance in accordance with the criteria for designation.
- Propose to the Township Council those buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts that are found to be worthy of landmark designation, while working more closely with residents and property owners throughout the designation process.
- Further the public's knowledge of the history and development of the Township as well as its appreciation of the Township's historic sites.
- Foster civic pride in the history and architecture of the Township.
- Encourage proper maintenance of and reinvestment in buildings and structures within the Township.
- Advance public awareness of the value of historic, architectural and cultural preservation by developing and participating in public information programs.
- Make information available to residents of historic buildings or districts concerning recommended guidelines for rehabilitation and design criteria for new construction.

The Commission looks forward to 2020 and additional ways to engage residents in the value of Historic Preservation.

Thank you for your participation and Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Kathleen M. Bennett', is written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen M. Bennett, Chair
Montclair Historic Preservation Commission