



**TOWN OF ACTON**  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**472 MAIN STREET**  
**ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 01720**  
**hdc@acton-ma.gov**

---

23 December 2013

Acton Municipal Properties Department  
472 Main Street  
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Dean,

This letter is in response to your request that the Acton Historic District Commission (HDC) provide a letter of support for the Acton Municipal Properties Department (MPD) proposal to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for the exterior painting (and minor exterior repairs as needed) of town hall with historically accurate paint colors. Town Hall occupies a prominent place in Acton's history and its proper care and restoration to historical accuracy will be emblematic of the Town of Acton's commitment to historic preservation.

On December 10, 2013 at our bi-weekly commission meeting, the HDC met with you to review and discuss this proposal. The Commission was pleased to see that the MPD is intending, as part of the proposal, to engage a well-known and highly-experienced historic preservation paint consultant familiar with the most up-to-date paint analysis techniques. Given the age of the building, the HDC expects that the historically accurate colors which we will likely be revealed may be aesthetically jarring compared to the present white facades and black shutters. However, the HDC believes strongly that historical accuracy is vitally important in this circumstance and should outweigh any subjective opinions concerning color. We note that there has been an increasing awareness among homeowners in the Central Historic District in regards to repainting their homes in historically appropriate colors. Although the selection of paint colors is technically outside the statutory authority of the HDC, nevertheless we are pleased to lend our expertise and guidance to the MPD effort to ensure the continued vitality of this building. The HDC wholeheartedly supports your proposal.

Sincerely,

Kathy Acerbo-Bachmann  
HDC Chair