

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: September 11, 2019

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Joshua Martin, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building

RE: Sea Street Historic District Path Forward

DATE: August 27, 2019

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Town Council consider the following approach and path forward regarding the proposed Sea Street Historic District Path Forward for the Town of Palm Beach.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Recently, the Town of Palm Beach Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously to give consideration to establish the Sea Streets Historic District
(article: <https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/20190826/palm-beach-to-consider-historic-designation-for-three-sea-streets>).

As opposed to having the Mayor and Town Council be forced to weigh in on this matter at this time, I recommend that the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department conduct and host a Historic District Education Symposium in season (tentative dates December 4-6, 2019) to allow for national, industry experts to conduct the following:

- December 4, 2019: Symposium Panelists travel to Palm Beach;
- December 5, 2019: 9am – 2pm: Symposium Panelists conduct site visit of Sea Streets with PZB Staff/LPC Chair/Preservation Foundation reps to assess the study area;
- December 5, 2019: 3pm – 6pm: Historic District Symposium at the Flagler Museum (in season, plenty of parking) during which the experts will educate stakeholders on historic districts in general, present best practices on historic districts in places similar to Palm Beach, potential code reform and incentives related to demolitions in general, and present reflections of site visit and how this tool may or may not work for Palm Beach; and
- December 6, 2019: 1pm – 3pm: Community Feedback Session, during which residents and property owners can provide comments/feedback from the symposium and have a chance to ask questions to the panelists who will be on hand to provide answers accordingly.

As an aside, this matter has been proposed as one of the primary “themes” of code reform so we can just pull this out and do it regardless of the overall code reform project. This topic is too important in my opinion to make a hasty, uneducated decision as a community. Moreover, it is unfair to force the hand of Council to make this decision now without a chance to educate all those citizens and decision makers involved in the matter at hand.

CC: Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager
John C. Randolph, Town Attorney