

Progress Update on the Proposed Elizabeth Historic District

On May 8, 2024, the Charlotte Historic District Commission voted unanimously to approve the Historic Elizabeth Neighborhood Foundation's (HENF) application to create an Elizabeth Local Historic District (LHD).

This important administrative step had been delayed several times over the past year after opponents of the proposed LHD raised concerns about the HENF's application. The approved application will now be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for evaluation. SHPO reviews historic district applications to determine whether they meet the standards for historic districts established by the United States Department of Interior. SHPO does not establish local historic districts; only the Charlotte City Council can do that. SHPO is expected to complete its review sometime in June or July, 2024. If SHPO approves the HENF's application, then the HENF will begin efforts to obtain the support of the residents of the proposed LHD for the re-zoning petition required to implement it. The HENF application can proceed to the rezoning process, and final decision by City Council, only if at least 51% of the property owners within the proposed LHD boundary vote in support of establishing the LHD.

With the administrative work concluding, the HENF will turn to planning community education sessions to be held later this year. Our goal is to ensure all affected neighbors are aware of the proposal and informed about the pros and cons of living in a local historic district. We will also be working with our canvassing firm to align on the process and timing for the circulation of the required re-zoning petition. The HENF remains committed to ensuring accuracy, transparency, and neutrality with the petition vote. For that reason, the voting will be conducted by an independent, third-party vendor rather than the HENF or neighborhood volunteers.

The HENF also remains committed to giving the property owners of Elizabeth the opportunity to vote, and ultimately decide for themselves, if the proposed Elizabeth LHD should become Charlotte's 9th historic district.

Please visit our website at www.historicelizabethnc.org for further updates.