



Town Hall. PFPB Archives.

## Preservation Advocacy

Advocacy for preservation initiatives has always been, and continues to be, central to the Foundation's mission. Foundation staff, including Amanda Skier, Katie Jacob, and Aimee Sunny, have been integral to the Town's recent development of three important changes that benefit historic properties.

For many years, the Foundation has been advocating for the creation of conservation districts to complement the Landmarks program. Town Council recently adopted a series of 11 districts covering the entire island. No additional restrictions have been placed on any structures within these districts, but rather a cost-saving incentive has been created. The districts provide the opportunity for any building identified as historically significant to take advantage of FEMA and building code exemptions to avoid needing to elevate a structure during renovations. Property owners are not required to utilize this exemption, but if they choose to do so, this new incentive may lead to fewer demolitions of older structures and therefore help preserve the character of Palm Beach.

Foundation staff recently participated in a review of the Town's approval process for Landmarks projects, and provided input on the newly developed Design Review Matrix. This matrix makes clear what type of review is needed for a given project, and provides a fair, predictable process for applicants and the Town to follow.

Foundation staff have also been instrumental in bringing about recent discussions regarding incentives for the Landmarks program. In order to encourage property owners to Landmark properties, as well as to offset some of the costs associated with owning and renovating a Landmark structure, the Town is exploring the development of an incentive program. Although the particulars of the program have not yet been established by the Town Council, the Foundation is thrilled that an incentive program is currently being studied and developed.