



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Chair Windsor and Planning Commission Members

**Thru:** Amy Ainslie, Planning and Community Development Director *AA*

**From:** Ariadne Will, Planner I

**Date:** September 26, 2025

**Subject:** Recommendation of the Sitka Historic Preservation Plan

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At its regular meeting on August 13, 2025, the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) voted to approve its Sitka Historic Preservation Plan for forwarding to the Planning Commission and then the Assembly. The adoption and implementation of a historic preservation plan is required in the Sitka General Code under SGC 2.50.040.B, which states that the Historic Preservation shall “develop a local historic preservation plan including provision for identification, protection and interpretation of the area’s significant resources.”

The previous, existing Sitka Historic Preservation Plan is a two-page document that was adopted by the HPC in 1994. The document was drafted roughly a year after the HPC was established and provides a short history of Sitka, the purpose of the plan, and the HPC’s goals, actions, and objectives. No updates have been accepted by the HPC between the adoption of the 1994 plan and the 2025 plan.

The 2025 plan as approved by the HPC follows a format similar to the 1994 plan with further elaborations: the 2025 plan includes extensive background regarding historic preservation in the U.S., Alaska, and Sitka; historic contexts for Sitka; Sitka properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places; preservation needs for Sitka; and goals and actions. The plan will serve as a guiding document for the HPC in the years to come and will act as a resource for Sitkans engaging in the rehabilitation and restoration of historic properties and resources.

Given the interrelationship between historic preservation and development, the Planning Commission has been asked to review the plan. Additionally, the Planning Commission is asked to review the plan’s consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. All actions and objectives under the Historic, Cultural, and Arts section are included as an attachment; HCA 1.1a specifically states, “Develop, adopt, and implement a Sitka Historic Preservation Plan” and several additional actions speak to incorporation of historic and

cultural preservation with regards to downtown rehabilitation, memorial and naming policies, preservation of the Sitka Indian Village, and cultural heritage tourism.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Planning Commission recommend Assembly approval of the Historic Preservation Plan.

Potential motion: **“I move to recommend approval of the Historic Preservation Plan.”**

Encl: 2025 Sitka Historic Preservation Plan Draft  
2025 Sitka Historic Preservation Plan Appendices  
1994 Sitka Historic Preservation Plan  
Comprehensive Plan 6.3 Historic, Cultural, and Arts Resources Goals,  
Objectives, and Actions.