Christopher Skelly

22 William Street Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 (413) 834-0678 ccskelly12@gmail.com

Summary

Skelly Preservation Services

Consultant 2021-Present

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Director of Local Government Programs 1997-2021

University of Massachusetts/Amherst

Instructor 2013-2018

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

Commission Trainer 2014-Present

City of Lowell, MA

Neighborhood Planner 1996-1997

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Transportation Planner 1993-1995

Urban Research and Development Corporation

Land Use Planner 1989-1991

University of Massachusetts/Amherst

Master of Regional Planning 1993

SUNY/College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture 1989

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Skelly Preservation Services

Consultant

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts 2021-Present

Community planning and preservation consultant services. Completed local government projects include design guidelines, preservation reports, plans and local commission training.

Massachusetts Historical CommissionDirector of Local Government Programs

Boston, Massachusetts 1997-2021

As part of the State Historic Preservation Office for Massachusetts, provide technical assistance to the 351 cities and towns of Massachusetts on topics including planning, historic preservation, zoning, land use and state/federal regulations.

Lead adult education workshops, in person or virtually, for educating local officials, commissions, boards and citizens on historic preservation planning. Prepare technical guidebooks, reports, summary sheets and data for use by local governments. Evaluate local historic district study reports and local landmark study reports. Assess municipal grant applications. Manage approved grants for local design guidelines and municipal preservation plans. Review state policies and legislation. Prepare the five-year state historic preservation plan. Represent the agency's interest on statewide committees and task forces.

Major Accomplishments:

Authored or co-authored agency guidebooks such as Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances, the Preservation Planning Manual, A Guidebook for Historic District Commissions and Establishing Local Historic Districts. Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances was recognized by reviewers at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Law Reporter and the American Planning Association.

Managed the production of two 45-minute DVDs entitled Local Historic Districts in Massachusetts and Local Historical Commissions in Massachusetts

Established and administered the listservs for the statewide historic preservation community and planner community.

Authored the Local Preservation Update electronic newsletter distributed to over 2500 individuals.

Prepared model ordinances on historic preservation topics such as demolition delay and architectural preservation districts.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Local Historic Preservation Commission Trainer

2014-Present

Travel nationally as an instructor to provide training to local commissions.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Amherst, Massachusetts

Faculty in Master of Science and Design in Historic Preservation Program

2013-18
Instructor of Cultural Resource Management (Arch Des 697N) to graduate level students enrolled in the historic preservation program.

City of Lowell, Massachusetts

Lowell, Massachusetts

Neighborhood Planner in Division of Planning and Development 1996-97 Worked closely with diverse neighborhood organizations and elected officials on short and long term planning projects including blighted buildings, neighborhood plans, vacant land and surplus city property.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Boston, Massachusetts

Transportation Improvement Program Coordinator in a regional planning agency 1993-95 Coordinated project planning and development with municipalities, state officials and consultant engineers.

Urban Research and Development Corporation

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Land Use Planner in a landscape architecture/planning office

1989-91

Prepared site engineering drawings, conceptual plans and regional site analysis maps for various clients.

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Master of Regional Planning, 1993

Masters Project investigated the economic impact of historic preservation in the city of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Co-authored, Building Better Bicycling, a guidebook for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, magna cum laude, 1989

Final project was an off-campus semester in London, England studying changes to the landscapes of historic designed urban parks.

LOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE

Volunteer local board service includes the planning board, school committee, open space committee and zoning reform committee.

HONORS

Received a Distinguished Service Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association.