

COMPARISON OF PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY

	Historical Societies	Historical Commissions	HARBS
Purpose	Informal gathering of people with common interest in history of area	Can oversee all aspects of preservation within municipality; identify resources, maintain lists, review preservation concerns such as land development plans and recommend actions.	Prescribed by Act 167 – review for certificate of appropriateness by approval or disapproval of changes within historic districts*
Creation	Development of bylaws and nonprofit status (501c3)	Established by resolution or ordinance by local governing body	Created by passing an historic district ordinance (Act 167) approved by governing body and PHMC
Enabling Legislation	None needed	Municipal Planning Code 605 (2)	PA Act 167
Function	As determined by membership and board of directors usually archival, collections, education	Quasi-judicial and advisory; assist with stewardship of historic buildings and landscapes	Quasi-judicial and advisory; a review body for historic district
Membership	Private organization of volunteers sharing same interests and most often paying dues	Appointed by governing body according to criteria established in resolution/ordinance. Can mimic HARB composition	Appointed by governing body as defined by Act 167 (at least 5 members and 3 must be Building inspector, architect, real estate broker)
Grant Eligibility	As a non-profit (501(c)(3))	Under local government classification May become a CLG and be eligible for CLG grants	Under local government classification. May become a CLG and be eligible for CLG grants
Funding	Through membership dues and fund raising efforts	Municipal budget, grants	Municipal budget, grants
Decision making	Usually by elected board members or membership. Autonomous	According to due process and based on findings of fact. Can be challenged in courts Advisory to municipal officials	Must be due process and based on findings of fact. Can be challenged in courts. Advisory to municipal officials

*For designated Act 167 districts, not National Register districts although they may share the same boundaries.