



You know Shepherdstown West Virginia is an attractive community due to:

- Remarkably intact collection of historic buildings that benefit from the care individual property owners take in preserving the historic character of the community
- Property values that are higher than surrounding communities
- Bountiful amenities to enjoy year-round including cultural opportunities provided by the Town and Shepherd University, a thriving downtown with an array of shops and restaurants, and natural and recreational resources along the Potomac River

You should also be aware of your responsibilities to your neighbors

The Town has adopted rules and regulations that are designed to preserve the quality of life in Shepherdstown and protect the rights and property values of residents and property owners. Some of these rules and regulations include considerations for property maintenance while others govern what property owners can do in terms of changes to buildings.

Starting in 2016, the Town is enforcing provisions of the *International Property Maintenance Code* that identifies minimum standards for how structures are maintained as well as general property maintenance considerations such as the condition of sidewalks, accumulations of trash and debris, lack of adequate maintenance for landscaping, or storage of inoperable motor vehicles.

In addition, if you plan a change to any structure (including garages and storage buildings) on your property, including additions or removals and changes in materials, a *Project Permit* is needed from the Town's Planning Commission. A Project Permit is also required for changes to or construction of fences.

Also, since most of the Town is designated as a Historic District by the National Park Service and therefore, a *Certificate of Appropriateness* (COA) is also needed from the Town's Historic Landmarks Commission when exterior changes are proposed on properties within the Historic District. The COA is intended to preserve the historic character of the Town while recognizing and accommodating modern technology and materials where possible.

For more information:

The Town is holding a public meeting at 6:30 PM on Thursday, August 24th at Town Hall. Representatives of the Town Council, Planning Commission, and Historic Landmarks Commission will be available to discuss these rules and requirements.

You can also visit the Town's website at www.shepherdstown.us or you can contact the Shepherdstown Zoning Officer at (304) 876-6858 or zoning@shepherdstown.us.