

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Watertown is in the process of developing residential design guidelines. The comments below demonstrate a variety of opinions that were expressed at one of three community listening sessions recently. All comment sheets are available on the town's website.  
(Watertown Department of Community Development and Planning)*



### **BUILDING SITING**

- Ensure buildings do not take up too much of lot
- Take cues for height and setbacks of adjacent buildings
- No side-facing primary entrances
- Control the percentage of impervious site coverage



### **GARAGES + PARKING**

- Parking should not be allowed in the front setback
- Garages should not dominate the facade
- Use permeable paving wherever possible
- Minimize the width of driveways and number of curb cuts



### **ARCHITECTURAL STYLES**

- Be respectful of existing context
- The town should not become the “design police”
- A mix of styles is desirable
- Visual resources for the public would be helpful



### **ROOF FORMS**

- Employ varied roof forms
- New roofs should ideally be solar panel compatible
- Design with snow and ice in mind
- Dormers should not overwhelm the primary roof form



### **FACADE ELEMENTS**

- Elements should break up the mass of the house
- Facades should have interest and character
- Homes should appear open and engage the neighborhood
- Building facades should have depth

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONT.)

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### **PORCHES + ENTRIES**

- Porches are highly desirable
- Explore allowing porches to potentially violate front yard setbacks
- Primary entrances and porches should always face the street
- Entries should not be secondary to garage doors



### **SIDING + MATERIALS**

- Natural materials are desirable
- Avoid vinyl and similarly cheap-looking man-made materials
- Exterior materials should be sustainable and high-performing
- A variety of materials are encouraged



### **DETAILING + FENESTRATION**

- These should be consistent across an individual building
- Existing windows should not be blanked out
- Educational resources and examples would be helpful
- Additions should respect the style of the existing house



### **PLANTING + LANDSCAPING**

- Preserve existing mature shade trees wherever possible
- Include shrubs and plantings to soften the base of the building
- Explore having homeowners adopt street trees in front of their house
- The size of plantings should relate to size of the building

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

- The challenge is to balance individual property rights with the public good
- A challenge is determining how much control the guidelines should have
- The guidelines should be light and manageable
- Possibly include more language about energy efficiency and sustainability