



SOMERVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE – CITY HALL
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143
617-625-6600 X 2500
www.somervillema.gov

Application Form For Commission Membership

Date: 12/2/10

Name: Natasha Burger

Address: 9 Gilson Terrace #1, Somerville, MA 02143

Phone#s Home: _____ **Work:** _____ **Cell:** (617) 833-7293

E-Mail Address: Natasha.Burger@gmail.com

ARE YOU A RESIDENT/OWNER of HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTY? (a certain number of Commission Members are required to be residents of historic properties.) Yes___ No X **Since When?**_____

WHAT IS YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND, WORK AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE? (Membership requirements include architect, architectural historian, real estate broker, city planner, lawyer, building contractor or tradesperson, landscape architect, and interested citizen members.) Please describe or attach current resume.

Please see attached resume. I am a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and I have worked in Real Estate since 2004. Prior to working in real estate I worked for a non-profit that assisted cities, developers, and non-profits clean up and redevelop urban infill “brownfield” sites. In college I majored in American Civilization (American Studies) and I have a background in history and urban studies. Through my work in real estate I have taken coursework in historic homes and I grew up in an historic home in Wenham, Massachusetts. I am very interested in urban planning, architecture, adaptive reuse, oral history, and historic preservation.

WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOMERVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION? As a Somerville resident and real estate professional, I care deeply about Somerville's neighborhoods. I would like to become a member of the Commission because I would like to both help preserve the historic architectural integrity of our city and to connect with more Somerville residents about the history of the area.

WHAT PARTICULAR ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED?

I would like to see more interaction between the Commission and the community about local history, particularly the "everyday" history of Somerville (not only famous people or major historic events). I believe that the more relevant historic homes and historic preservation feel to the community at large, the more popular they will become.

WHAT SKILLS AND TALENTS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE COMMISSION?

I am a good listener and I thrive in situations where multiple stakeholders are coming at an issue from different perspectives and we need to reach a consensus. I practice this on a daily basis in my work life. I would also bring my professional perspective to the Commission that it is valuable and in a homeowner's interest to preserve the historic integrity of a home. I would like to share my talents as an oral historian and interview owners of designated historic properties to share their stories and experiences.

WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SITE VISITS AND REGULAR COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES? ANY SCHEDULING LIMITATIONS?

Yes, I would be able to commit to regular meetings, site visits and committee activities. The only scheduling conflicts I can anticipate would be if I were to be called away unexpectedly for work. In real estate I work non-traditional hours including nights and weekends, but I would make a point to schedule appointments around Committee meetings and activities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: While I have only lived in Somerville since June of 2004, my interest in and connection to this place feels larger than the years might convey. Through my work in real estate, I have come to know many of the streets and homes in the area. I hope that I am selected to be a member of the Commission because I have been impressed by the Commission's thoughtfulness and care as they work with homeowners while following the Historic District Ordinance.

If you have any questions, please call the Historic Preservation Commission Staff at 617-625-6600 ext. 2532 or e-mail bwilson@somervillema.gov Thank you for your interest!

NATASHA J. BURGER

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LifeInTheVille.wordpress.com

Experience

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE Cambridge, MA

6/04 – Present

Realtor®, Transaction Manager

- I represent buyers and sellers in residential real estate transactions in Cambridge, Somerville and contiguous towns. My work includes:
 - Negotiating on behalf of my clients; communicating effectively verbally and in writing with buyers, sellers, cooperating agents, lenders, appraisers, contractors, and city employees; analyzing local market data by town, zip code, and property type and preparing Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) reports; creating marketing plans and property-specific marketing materials; hosting open houses and broker tours; managing transactions from offer to closing.
- As a Transaction Manager I managed 40+ residential real estate transactions annually for a top-producing Coldwell Banker Vice President. My responsibilities included:
 - Developing contact and transaction management systems; preparing CMA reports and marketing plans, taking photographs and writing copy for new marketing materials; coordinating communication between relevant stakeholders.
- Related Skills: Through my work in real estate I have developed a working understanding of zoning laws, FAR, setback requirements, curb-cut regulations, condominium conversions, in-fill development, and residential construction/renovation practices including heating/cooling systems, plumbing, electrical, insulation, siding, roofs and basements.

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR LAND RECYCLING (CCLR) San Francisco, CA

9/01 – 7/03

Program Associate and Development Assistant

- Managed \$75K annually in grants to nonprofits and municipalities for brownfield redevelopment.
 - Assisted grantees in navigating the legal, regulatory, and financial challenges related to brownfield site transaction and development. Grantees included: East Bay Habitat for Humanity, Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, Trust for Public Land, and the Sierra Business Council.
- Administered the State Treasurer's Cal ReUSE \$1M forgivable loan program for brownfield site assessments. Created new marketing and outreach materials to publicize program, assisted potential applicants with eligibility and programmatic inquiries, and screened preliminary applications.
- Coordinated fundraising development projects.
 - Assisted Executive Director in soliciting donations resulting in over \$100K in contributions from individual and corporate donors in 2002 and identified new relevant stakeholders to expand CCLR's constituency database from 15K to over 30K.
- Developed educational and outreach materials on brownfield redevelopment.
 - Wrote and edited CCLR educational and outreach materials, updated and distributed information on brownfield financing, and researched and edited articles on brownfield redevelopment.

Education

BROWN UNIVERSITY Providence, RI

9/96 – 12/00

- Bachelor of Arts with Honors in American Civilization.
- Senior thesis nominated by American Civilization Department for University publication:
 - From Market Farms to Farmers' Markets: The History and Renaissance of Urban Farmers' Markets in Rhode Island*
- Additional course work in urban studies, historic houses, real estate development, and environmental studies.

Memberships and Volunteer Experience

- Young Somerville Advisory Group 8/10 – Present
- National Association of Realtors, MA Association of Realtors, Greater Boston RE Board 6/10 – Present
- Boston Public Market Association Volunteer 3/09 – Present
- Somerville Garden Club 6/06 – Present
- Cambridge Historical Society 10/04 – Present