

Letter to the Editor:

Fostering current economic development does not require sacrificing our past. Given the community update to the comprehensive plan, we have an opportunity to rethink our approach to historic preservation and recognize the contribution Lake Oswego's existing historic fabric makes to the local economy and to sustainability.

To fully utilize the potential of Lake Oswego's built heritage, the Lake Oswego Preservation Society suggests that the following "better by the dozen" concepts be included in the comprehensive plan update:

1. Educate the community about the strong relationship between sustainability and preservation.
2. Promote rehabilitation of historic buildings, which contributes more, in the long term, to the local economy than new construction.
3. Actively encourage partnerships among municipalities (city, county, and state) and local businesses and organizations specializing in building reuse.
4. Enhance the protection and retention of Landmark properties by strengthening our code language.
5. Encourage the use of conservation easements to protect historic properties.
6. Protect National Register properties the same as Landmark properties under the City's Historic Preservation code.
7. Provide incentives for relocating buildings within the community as an alternative to demolition.
8. Prohibit demolition by neglect.
9. Reexamine the criterion for delisting an

- historic property and make them more objective than the current method.
10. Require deconstruction on any remodel or new construction project costing more than a certain to-be-determined amount.
  11. Require that photographic documentation be submitted with a demolition permit application for buildings over 50 years old.
  12. Actively encourage homeowners to document and share the history of their homes, streets, and neighborhoods via workshops, storytelling sessions, photo contests, etc.

Marylou Colver, President  
Lake Oswego Preservation Society  
[www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org](http://www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org)

68 Leonard Street  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

503 697-4432  
[maryloucolver@mac.com](mailto:maryloucolver@mac.com)