

United States Postal Service and Rite Aid Site Plan Review

The Village of Cambridge is an historic upstate New York community of character complete with a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the United States Department of Interior. The Cambridge Post Office and Rite Aid are located within the Historic District. When the United States Postal Service proposed a new facility be built on the outskirts of the village, and Rite Aid proposed an expansion plan which included the demolition of a contributing structure to the historic district, significant concern was voiced by local citizenry over the erosion of the central focus of the village.



Previously threatened, this contributing structure to the village's historic district will be preserved.

The firm of **Behan Planning Associates, LLC**, was engaged by two non-profit community organizations, the Citizens for Old Cambridge and the Battenkill Conservancy, to provide professional planning and design review services on both the United States Post Office and Rite Aid projects. This work was very process-oriented. It included several meetings with project sponsors, local village officials, key stakeholders, and concerned citizens, a detailed analysis of existing site conditions, development and preservation opportunities, plans, suggested recommendations for alternative sites within the village, and the preparation of alternative development plan concepts to address community character and development design issues. A set of standard design guidelines and criteria for development within a historic village were also developed.

The end process had results. The existing Rite Aid site was reprogrammed to accommodate the expansion and a previously threatened contributing structure to the national register historic district will be preserved. The United States Postal Service is building a new facility in the heart of the village as recommended in Behan Planning Associates, LLC, final report. This work received an award from Washington County Historical Society for its preservation efforts.



With proper planning and design, a new, convenient, modern post office can be sited in the heart of the village in a way befitting the dignity of this historic community.