

James W. Igoe, President



James W. Igoe has been with Preservation Massachusetts since January, 2002 and President since 2004. Preservation Massachusetts is the only statewide historic preservation advocacy organization. During his tenure, he has worked with the volunteer Board of Directors and staff to increase the organization's impact and outreach across the Commonwealth in an effort to rebuild, refocus and reenergize Preservation Massachusetts.

To this end Mr. Igoe developed the Massachusetts Preservation Coalition, an alliance of local, state and national preservation organizations to advocate for preservation and promote legislative agendas on key issues. The main focus of Mr. Igoe's work has been the Massachusetts State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, successfully drafted, lobbied and passed between 2002 and 2003. Mr. Igoe has worked diligently with consultants, colleagues and lobbyists in an effort to educate our legislature about the importance of preservation, as well as linking preservation into economic development and community revitalization. His efforts have resulted in credibility and a voice on Beacon Hill. Great partnerships with the business and development communities have resulted from the tax credit, alliances that will ultimately greatly benefit preservation in Massachusetts.

The challenging economic times in 2008 and 2009 prompted Mr. Igoe and Preservation Massachusetts to step up efforts to enhance the State Historic Tax Credit in Massachusetts, which is more vital than ever to projects, communities and economic development in the Commonwealth. In March 2009, an economic overview of the success and impact of the credit program was published by Preservation Massachusetts.

Mr. Igoe has also been involved in expanding Preservation Massachusetts programmatically and professionally. Efforts to increase visibility and impact across the state lead to the establishment of the Massachusetts Circuit Rider Program. In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Massachusetts employs three part time professionals who travel the Commonwealth, and bring the resources of both organizations and more to individuals and communities facing preservation challenges. Mr. Igoe has also expanded program with the successful Barn Preservation Task Force, Regional Advisory Council, enhanced Massachusetts Most Endangered program and the Historic Districts/Historic Commissions Committee which has developed a traveling preservation training series.

Mr. Igoe holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the College of the Holy Cross and a Masters of Arts in Public Administration from Clark University, both in Worcester. He served as Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth under Michael Connolly for 15 years. During this time he had oversight of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which he chaired for 10 years, as well as overseeing the construction of the State Archives on Columbia Point in Boston. In 1995 he became Executive Director of Preservation Worcester and substantially built up a local preservation non-profit. He has always had a lifelong interest and passion for preservation and currently resides in South Dennis.

Email Jim at jigoe@preservationmass.org