

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susanne Walker Abetti, Robin Adair Logan, Pat Stark and Chair Jonathan Schechtman.

Selectboard Liaison: Dennis Brown.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was also accessible remotely via Microsoft Teams with three members attending remotely.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. Minutes of the July 21, 2021 HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any changes or corrections to the minutes of July 21, 2021 HHPC meeting. There were none. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 HHPC meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Susanne Walker Abetti and unanimously approved.
3. HHPC Budget: Matt Osborn presented the current fiscal year 2021/2022 HHPC Budget which covers the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022:

• Travel & Meetings	\$265
• Advertising	\$300
• Membership Dues	\$100
• Materials & Supplies	\$400
• <u>Grants & Appropriations</u>	\$2,200
• Total	\$3,265

Matt noted that the Town Manager is recommending level spending for the next fiscal year. As a result, he suggested that the HHPC not ask for an increase. The HHPC agreed. Pat Stark made a motion to accept the current budget as the proposed budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Susanne Walker Abetti and approved 4 to 0.

4. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that with the decrease in Covid cases this summer, he was hoping that we could hold an in-person community meeting this fall. However, with the recent spike in the Covid Delta variant, a remote meeting appears imminent. The HHPC agreed. Matt suggested holding a remote community meeting sometime in October or November depending on consultant Brian Knight's availability. The HHPC agreed. Matt will contact Brian.
5. Demolition Standards: Matt Osborn noted that consultant Brandy Saxton decided not to complete her contract with the Town on the Demolition standards project and that \$3,000 was unspent. He requested that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation allow the Town to direct those funds for the additional town staff time spent on the project. The Division agreed. Robin Adair Logan asked if those funds would be returned to the HHPC. Matt responded that normally the funds would be returned to General Fund and the Selectboard would decide how the funds would be spent. Robin

Adair Logan made a motion to request that those funds be returned to the HHPC account. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved 4 to 0.

Matt noted that he is presently working on closeout of the CLG grant. He prepared timesheets for HHPC members for their volunteer time on the project. He requested that each member sign and date the timesheet then return it to Matt. The HHPC agreed.

Matt reported that the second and final community meeting for the demolition standards CLG grant is scheduled for the Tuesday, October 5th Selectboard Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to present the draft standards to the Selectboard and to receive public and Selectboard input. Dennis Brown stated that he thinks that the Selectboard needs time to consider the draft and hopes they will not take any action on the item October 5th. Jonathan Schechtman asked about the presentation to the Selectboard. Matt responded that he expects that staff will present along with Jonathan as HHPC chair and Planning Commission chair Bruce Riddle. Jonathan suggested including images used in the first community meeting. The HHPC agreed.

6. 160 Gates Street Application for Demolition: Matt Osborn reported that an application for demolition of the house and barn at 160 Gates Street in the Downtown White River Junction Design Review District was submitted to the Planning Department and will go before the Design Review Committee on Thursday, September 23rd at 9:00 a.m. He noted that both buildings are listed as a contributing resource in the White River Junction Historic District. The application will be reviewed by the Design Review Committee who will make a recommendation to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and act on the application. Jonathan Schechtman suggested that the National Register Listing for both buildings be submitted to the Design Review Committee prior to the meeting. Matt agreed to discuss with Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells.
7. HHPC Opening: Jonathan Schechtman noted that there is still an opening on the HHPC. There was discussion about recruiting a suitable candidate. Dennis Brown encouraged diversity.
8. Announcements: There were no announcements.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Matt Osborn noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for October 20th.
10. Adjournment: Susanne Walker Abetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Stark seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.