

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 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.

Others Present: None.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, December 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 5:00 p.m. The meeting was also accessible remotely via Microsoft Teams with three members attending remotely. Jonathan read the hybrid meeting script followed by a roll call.

1. Minutes of the November 17th and November 24, 2021 HHPC Meetings: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any revisions to the minutes of November 17th and the November 24th meetings. There were no corrections. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17th and November 24th meetings as written. Robin Adair Logan seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
2. Announcements:
 - a. HHPC Opening: Matt Osborn reported that he received a phone call from a resident who is interested in applying to fill the present HHPC vacancy. He suggested that she speak to Jonathan Schechtman and attend an HHPC meeting.
 - b. HHPC Terms: Matt Osborn reported that Pat Stark and Susanne Walker Abetti terms expire in March. To seek reappointment, they need to contact the Town Manager's Office.
 - c. 160 Gates Street Photo Documentation: Matt Osborn reported that Pat Stark and he will be conducting a site visit on December 17th to photo document the buildings at 160 Gates Street prior to demolition.
 - d. Carriage Shed Demolition: Pat Stark reported that the farmhouse on VA Cutoff Road was demolished this week. She expressed disappointment that the HHPC wasn't given the opportunity to photo document the building. Pat did note that an open roof existed for several months. Matt agreed to provide the HHPC with photos of the building.
 - e. HHPC Annual Report: Jonathan Schechtman reported that he read the Draft Annual Report and had one minor correction.
 - f. Taft's Flat Presentation: Matt Osborn reported that there was a very good turnout for Architectural Historian Brian Knight's presentation on the early to mid-20th century residential development on Taft's Flat. Robin Adair Logan responded that Brian did an excellent job. Jonathan Schechtman thanked Robin Adair for her contributions to the discussion. Matt noted that several people requested a link to the presentation video which is now on the HHPC webpage.
3. Review of HHPC's Charge: Jonathan Schechtman read the responsibilities of the HHPC from the Commission bylaws. One of the responsibilities is "advising and assisting the Selectboard, Planning Commission and other appropriate persons on matters relating to historic preservation." Robin Adair Logan noted that she is not aware of the HHPC advising the Planning Commission on any applications in her ten plus years on the Planning Commission. She would like to see more coordination between the two commissions. Dennis Brown asked if the Planning Commission bylaws has any reference to the HHPC. Robin Adair Logan responded no.

Matt Osborn stated that pre-covid, the Conservation Commission, Tree Board and Energy Commission met with Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells to review new applications and provide input. The Planning Commission has a five-week cycle for applications. He suggested including the HHPC in the review if an application has the potential of impacting historic resources. The HHPC agreed. Matt stated that he will contact Jo-Ann Ells to coordinate. Dennis Brown likes the idea of the HHPC being involved with the review of new applications.

Jonathan Schechtman suggested sending a memo to the Planning Commission or attending a meeting in-person to discuss the HHPC charge. Robin Adair strongly suggested going in-person. The HHPC agreed. Robin Adair recommends contacting Jo-Ann Ells and coordinate getting on the PC agenda. The PC has an administrative agenda at the beginning of each meeting.

4. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19th at 5:00 p.m.
5. Adjournment: Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Pat Stark and approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.