

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present & Date their Term is Up: Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Dennis Brown.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Jonathan read the hybrid meeting script followed by a roll call.

1. **Changes to the Agenda:** Jonathan asked if there are any changes to the agenda. There were none.
2. **HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of November 15th. Susanne Walker Abetti noted several corrections. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 15th with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
4. **Hartford Performing Arts History (PAH) Project:** Matt Osborn reported that he submitted a progress report to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation at the end of November and he is currently working on closing out the CLG grant. Matt stated that he will make copies of the report and distribute to Hartford schools and libraries. Susanne volunteered to do a final proofreading of the report before it is copied and distributed. Matt thought it was a very good idea and thanked Susanne. Pat requested a copy of the report for the Hartford Historical Society. HHPC members also requested a copy of the report.
5. **Taft's Flat Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that consultant Brian Knight had a conflict and was unable to participate in the HHPC meeting today. Matt expects Brian to be able to attend the January 17th HHPC meeting as the kick-off meeting. Matt noted that Hartgen Archaeological Associates (Hartgen) recommends Worcester Ave as the first historic district and Demers Avenue as the second district for the CLG grant for two historic district nominations. Jonathan suggested that Hartgen discuss their reasoning for the two historic districts with the HHPC.
6. **World War 1 & II Monument:** Dennis reported that the Monument Group met their fundraising goals for the project and everything is set for spring construction. He noted that the Densmore bricks are available for business and family inscriptions and will be used as a fundraiser to go toward maintenance of the Monument.
7. **HHPC Webpage:** Matt reported that over the last couple of years, the Town website has been updated twice. As a result, there is an opportunity to take a look at the HHPC webpage and organize it the way we want. He noted that this is an opportunity to regroup and make sure all of the HHPC project materials are accessible to the public. The HHPC agreed.
8. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that there are currently two openings on the Commission. Matt responded that he will draft a description of the work of the HHPC and send it to the HHPC to review,

then post it on the Town List Serv after the holidays. Susanne suggested including the HHPC mission statement. The others agreed.

9. Announcements:

- a. Low Barrier Shelter: Susanne reported that the Planning Commission approved the Haven's application for a low barrier shelter at the former 25,000 Gifts property on North Hartland Road.
- b. 60 Gates Street: Susanne reported that there is a rumor that the property located at 60 Gates Street (on the southwest corner of South Main Street and Gates Street) may have been recently sold. She is hoping that new owners would rehabilitate the building and not propose demolition. Jonathan noted that the building is a contributing building to the White River Junction Historic District and is in the design review district. Demolition would require review by the Design Review Committee and approval of the Planning Commission.

10. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th at 5:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment: Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

12. HHPC Member Terms: Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).