

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present & Date their Term is Up: Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Lannie Collins and consultant Brian Knight.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. **Welcome:** Jonathan welcomed new HHPC member Dennis Brown and new Selectboard Liaison Lannie Collins. Dennis responded that he is honored to serve on the HHPC. Lannie stated that he would like to see the HHPC do more to promote the Town's history.
2. **Changes to the Agenda:** Jonathan asked if there are any changes to the agenda. There were none.
3. **HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of February 21st. Susanne Walker Abetti noted two corrections. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 21st with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved.
4. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
5. **Taft's Flat Historic District Nomination Update:** Architectural Historian Brian Knight was present to provide an update of the project. Regarding the Demers Avenue nomination, Brian reported the following:
 - He talked to State Architectural Historian Devin Colman about whether to submit a nomination for the seven faux log homes or the entire Demers Avenue block. Devin recommended focusing the nomination on the seven faux log homes. Brian agreed.
 - Conducted research.
 - Met with family members of the Demers family.
 - Received additional historic photos from the Demers family.
 - Toured interior of two homes - have interior shots of built-ins and fireplace.

Brian reported that he also talked to Devin Colman regarding his thoughts as to the best option for the second nomination. Devin recommended Victory Circle over Worcester Avenue. The HHPC discussed and agreed. Pat made a motion to select Victory Circle as the second historic district nomination. It was seconded by Dennis and approved 4 to 0. Matt said the HHPC could proceed with a historic district nomination for Worcester Avenue next year as the CLG grant project.

Regarding next steps, Brian said he will work on the Demers draft nomination. He will also begin work on the Victory Circle nomination. Matt asked about a possible date for an informal community meeting on the nominations. It was agreed to schedule the meeting following the June 12th HHPC meeting.

6. **Veterans Park Kiosk:** Matt reported that the kiosk at Veterans Park was taken down due to corrosion. A new kiosk will be installed. Lori Hirshfield requested that the HHPC be involved in the redesign.

Jonathan asked if the kiosk will have to go before the Design Review Commission. Matt will inquire. The HHPC requested information on the former kiosk. Matt agreed. Lannie asked whether the Planning and Development Department or the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the kiosk. Matt responded that he will inquire.

- 7. Hartford Performing Arts History (PAH) Project:** Matt reported that Susanne did a final proof reading of the PAH final report. Matt will now make the changes before submitting to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and National Park Service to close out the CLG grant.

Jonathan asked about hiring Neil Silberman to interview Bill Bittinger for the PAH and transcribe the interview. Matt responded that he will discuss with Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield.

- 8. Historic District Signs:** Matt reported that he is waiting to hear back from the Hartford Boy Scout Leader Tim Schaal on whether the Boy Scouts can take on the historic district sign repainting project as a community project this year. Matt agreed to follow-up with Tim.
- 9. World War I & II Monument:** Matt submitted suggested language for the World War I and II Monument that will go on the new kiosk at Veterans Park. Jonathan responded that the text could be more succinct. Dennis reported that the doner bricks have been completed and are being stored at the Hartford Department of Public Works. He also reported that a mason has been selected to install the bricks.
- 10. HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that with Dennis' appointment, the HHPC is down to one opening. Lannie stated that he will announce the opening at Selectboard meetings.

11. Announcements:

- a. Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting: Pat reported that the Hartford Historical Society is holding its annual meeting on Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 p.m. at the Hartford Village Church.

- 12. Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th at 5:15 p.m. Dennis requested a copy of the HHPC meeting schedule. Matt agreed to email it to the HHPC and Lannie.
- 13. Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.
- 14. HHPC Member Terms:** Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).