

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

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.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

- 1. HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of December 18th. Pat Stark noted two corrections. Pat made a motion to approve the HHPC Minutes of December 18th with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Dennis and unanimously approved.
- 2. Public Comments:** Jonathan asked if there were any public comments. Lannie Collins stated that he would like to see the railroad weathervane mounted on the wall in the first-floor foyer of the Town Hall. Jonathan noted that at tonight's earlier meeting on the weathervane, there was a strong consensus to mount the weathervane on a pedestal encased in museum quality glass and placed somewhere in the first-floor foyer.
- 3. Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that the historic district nominations will go before the Selectboard on Tuesday, January 21st for approval to submit the nominations to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to be considered for approval by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Jonathan noted that he is able to join Matt at the meeting.
- 4. Historical Sign for Kilowatt Park:** Matt reported that on January 7th, Wilder residents Harry Kendrick, Phil Sargent and Bonnie Arnold met with Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler and Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield and Matt to discuss the next steps for the sign. Matt noted that the Hartford Sign Ordinance exempts historic markers authorized by the HHPC. He distributed copies of the sign specification sheet. Lannie said he would prefer a wooden sign to look more historic. Dennis noted the importance of being maintenance free. The HHPC reviewed the sign spec sheet. Susanne wanted to know if other sign designs were considered. Matt responded that he didn't know. He suggested inviting Harry, Phil and Bonnie to the February 19th meeting to discuss. The HHPC agreed.
- 5. Historic District Signs:** Matt reported that he met with local sign maker Bonnie Arnold of Red Door Signs about the additional historic district signs that are needed. Bonnie is interested in doing the work and will provide a cost estimate. She agreed to touch up the Hartford Village historic district sign that was damaged.
- 6. Railroad Row Kiosk CLG Grant Request:** Matt reported that he submitted the CLG grant application last month for the design of the replacement panels for the Railroad Row kiosk and design of the HHPC webpage. Matt noted that we will hear if the project was funded by the end of this month.

7. **Performing Arts History:** Matt reported that consultant Neil Silberman completed the interview and written transcripts of the interview with Bill Bittinger about the origins of the White River Junction Indie Film Festival. Neil will now work on the update of the PAH report. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this month.
8. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Matt reported that at their December 10th meeting, the Selectboard adopted a resolution forming an Ad hoc Hartford 250th Commemoration Committee. Lannie noted that the Selectboard wanted to review the Committee charge and get a legal opinion on the issue of compensation. Matt noted that he was assigned the task of drafting bylaws for the Committee. Matt is scheduled to go before the Selectboard with the draft bylaws on Tuesday, 1/21.

Lannie stated that he does not see the need for the 250th committee to be a Town-appointed committee. He thinks it would be better if it wasn't an official Town committee. Susanne agreed that if it isn't a Town committee, you could avoid what she considers bureaucratic requirements. Matt responded that the Historical Society wasn't comfortable serving as the Town committee and felt that an official Town designated committee would give the committee more credibility and acceptance. As a result, a Town committee was sought. Pat agreed.
9. **HHPC Opening:** Jonathan noted the current opening.
10. **Announcements:**
 - a. Historic Preservation Commission 2025 Meeting Schedule: Matt distributed the HHPC meeting schedule for 2025.
11. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19th at 5:15 p.m.
12. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.
13. **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).