

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Approved Meeting Notes

Members Present & Date their Term is Up: Dennis Brown (3/11/27) and vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28)

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Erik Krauss.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Vice-chair Pat Stark called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Introductions were made. Pat welcomed the new Selectboard Liaison Erik Krauss. This was followed by an overview of the HHPC's work and role as a Certified Local Government.

1. **HHPC Minutes:** Since there was not a quorum, approval of the minutes will be postponed at this time.
2. **Public Comments:** Pat asked if there were any public comments. There were none.
3. **Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that CLG Coordinator Elizabeth Peebles has completed her review of the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination and submitted comments to Architectural Historian Brian Knight. Brian accepted the changes. The next step is for Elizabeth to review the Victory Circle Historic District Nomination. Once completed, the Nominations will be scheduled for review by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (VACHP). A sixty-day notice is required for review by VACHP so the earliest meeting to review the Nominations could be scheduled is in June. Matt reported that he is working on final closeout of the Certified Local Government grant. He distributed HHPC timesheets for the project.
4. **Performing Arts History:** Matt reported that consultant Neil Silberman completed the work on the interview with Bill Bittinger and transcriptions about the origins of the White River Junction Indie Film Festival and updated the Performing Arts History (PAH) report. He noted that the interview with Bill is excellent. Matt agreed to email Erik the PAH report.
5. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that State Archivist David Schutz and VTrans Historic Preservation Officer Judith Ehrlich met with Town Manager John Haverstock, Jonathan Schechtman, Judy Barwood and Matt at the Town Hall on Friday, 2/21 to look at a permanent location for the weathervane in the Town Hall. Matt noted that a public meeting to solicit input on where to locate the weathervane resulted in consensus to locate the weathervane in the Town Hall. The 2/21 meeting resulted in consensus to locate the weathervane in the foyer at the west end of the wood floor under protective museum quality plexiglass. David Schutz has asked a staff member to draw up plans and an estimate to install the display. Matt noted that he inquired about the use of CLG grant funds for the display and was told that it is not eligible.
6. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant Request:** Matt reported that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has still not received funding from the National Park Service for the for the current CLG grant round. Matt noted that we will have to wait for the release of funds before we begin the project.
7. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Matt reported that the first official meeting of the Town's 250th Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. He noted that last night, the

Selectboard appointed Linda Miller as the 5th member of the Committee, leaving two vacancies. Pat reported that Jonathan Schechtman will be leading the effort to host a 250th event at the Theron Boyd House in Quechee. Dennis asked if a Selectboard Liaison was assigned to the 250th Committee. Erik responded no but agreed to bring it up at the next Selectboard meeting.

- 8. Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that the Committee has made progress on the post-World War II monument to be fabricated and installed at Veterans Memorial Park. Dennis noted that the Committee is seeking funding for the monument. He reported that the zoning permit for the Monument will be handled administratively. The Committee is working with Parks and Recreation Department who oversees the property.
- 9. HHPC Opening:** Pat noted that there is currently an opening. Matt noted that Susanne's term ends on 3/21. To date she hasn't applied for reappointment.
- 10. Announcements:** There were no announcements.
- 11. Next HHPC Meeting:** Pat noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th at 5:15 p.m.
- 12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
- 13. HHPC Member Terms:** Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).