

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present & Date their Term is Up: Dennis Brown, Pat Stark and chair Jonathan Schechtman.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Harry Kendrick, Phil Sargent and Selectboard Liaison Erik Krauss.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 in Room 317 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. The Vermont Hybrid Meeting Script was not read since there were no remote participants. Introductions were made.

- 1. Historical Sign for Kilowatt Park:** Matt Osborn provided background on the historic sign proposed by Wilder residents Harry Kendrick, Phil Sargent and Bonnie Arnold. The sign provides information on the history and photographs of Wilder Village on one side and the history and photographs of the Wilder Paper Mill on the other side. The proposed location is behind the guardrail on Passumpsic Road across from Depot Street. Matt noted that the Hartford Sign Ordinance has an exemption for historic markers authorized by the Historic Preservation Commission. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the proposed sign as a historic marker. The motion was seconded by Dennis Brown and approved 3-0. Harry noted that he is in contact with Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works regarding the sign. Jonathan asked about the timeline for erecting the sign. Harry responded that the \$4,500 sign will require fundraising so it is uncertain. Harry noted that he has spoken to Planning and Development Director Lori Hirshfield about obtaining Town funds to help pay the costs of the sign. Erik Krauss asked about tying in the sign with the 250th Anniversary. Harry responded that it is possible. Phil Sargent noted that there is potential to develop additional historic signs for other Hartford villages.
- 2. Approval of the March 19th HHPC Meeting Notes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting notes of March 19th. Being none, Jonathan said that the meeting notes of March 19th were accepted as written.
- 3. Public Comments:** Jonathan asked if there were any public comments. There were none.
- 4. Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that CLG Coordinator Elizabeth Peebles has completed a review of the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination and the Victory Circle Historic District Nomination. Both have been scheduled to go before the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on Thursday, June 19th.

Pat said that she was asked by a resident about historical documentation of the sawmill in Wilder that was used to create the logs for the Demers houses noting that the Hartford Historical Society doesn't have anything on it. Matt responded that he will inquire with Architectural Historian Brian Knight to see if he found anything in his research.
- 5. Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that he emailed State Archivist David Schutz and VTrans Historic Preservation Officer Judith Ehrlich last week to see if there was any progress on the weathervane. Matt was told that they will look into it and get back to us.
- 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 of which Hartford was awarded a \$4,500 grant pending receipt of federal funds.

7. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Jonathan reported he has been in touch with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation regarding holding an event at the Theron Boyd House. The response was uncertain. Apparently, the State determined that the building is unsafe for the public to enter. In addition, the barn and grounds are being leased to a local farmer and would have to be coordinated with them.

Dennis reported that the 250 Commemoration Committee is working on several events. He added that the Committee is also coming up with banners and is hoping the Town will pay for replacement brackets since the Hartford 250th anniversary in 2011.

8. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that the Committee received a grant of \$20,000 from the Byrne Foundation. They are conducting additional fundraising for the \$70,000 project.
9. **HHPC Openings:** Matt reported that Susanne Abetti has decided not to seek reappointment to the HHPC. Jonathan noted that there are currently two openings. Erik noted that he will announce the openings at the next Selectboard meeting.

10. Announcements:

- a. Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting: Pat reported that the HHS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at 2:00 p.m. and will include an ice cream social and entertainment.

11. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 5:15 p.m.

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

13. **HHPC Member Terms:** Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).