

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Brown, Pat Stark and chair Jonathan Schechtman.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Erik Krauss.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** Jonathan asked if there were any public comments. There were none.
2. **Approval of the May 21st HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of May 21st. Dennis Brown noted a correction. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21st with the noted correction. Jonathan seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.
2. **Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination and the Victory Circle/Highland Avenue Historic District Nomination have been scheduled to go before the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Matt reported that he will be attending. In addition, Matt asked Architectural Historian Brian Knight to attend.
3. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that he received an email update from VTrans Historic Preservation Officer Judith Ehrlich. She stated that David Schutz is helping VTrans put together a long-term loan agreement between Hartford and VTrans/State of Vermont. He is also helping to provide a pedestal that can be used to display the weathervane. David has two avenues to explore, either reusing an existing pedestal or building a new one. If we reuse an existing one, it is likely that it would need to be modified for security purposes. She also noted that they will consult with us when they consider the security details for either a modified or new pedestal. They will be sure that any requirements that we may have are taken into consideration. They are hopeful that the weathervane can be installed by late fall.
4. **Historical District Signs and the Wilder Historic Sign:** Matt reported that he heard back from sign maker Bonnie Arnold that she is working on the repair of the Hartford Village Historic District sign that was damaged. He also reported that Bonnie is working on a cost estimate for new historic district signs.

Matt reported that Harry Kendrick made a request that the Town be the fiscal agent for the Wilder Village/Paper Mill history sign. This will require Selectboard approval and is expected to go to the Selectboard at a coming meeting.

5. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant Request:** Matt reported that there is nothing new to report on. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation still has not received funding from the National Park Service for the for the current CLG grant round.
6. **School District Building at 71 Highland Avenue:** Matt reported that we heard from the School District that the School Board approved demolition of the building. Jonathan reported that he prepared a letter requesting that they consider an alternative to demolition. Matt will print the letter on HHPC

letterhead and mail to the School Board and School Superintendent. Jonathan requested that Matt inform the Town Manager about the demolition. Matt noted that the School District consented to photo documentation.

7. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Dennis reported that the 250th Committee will have a table at the 6/25 Hartford Community Coalition Block Party. Dennis also reported that he is working with Green Mountain Power to determine ownership of power poles for the 250th banners. He noted that as a Town Committee, the banners won't be limited by the 60-day time limit for banners.
8. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that the Committee obtained a temperature gauge for the fundraising campaign that is mounted on the Railroad Row Kiosk.
9. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan stated that he talked to Robin Adair Logan and she indicated that she will be submitting an application to serve on the HHPC. Erik reported that he continues to announce the HHPC openings at Selectboard meetings and will continue to do so.

10. Announcements:

- a. New Vermont CLG: Matt reported that Winooski is the newest Certified Local Government community in Vermont. Matt noted that Winooski is the 20th CLG community. Matt stated that he remembers when there were only thirteen CLG's in Vermont. He noted that with the additional CLG's, it has not affected the competitiveness of the CLG grant program that much since several CLG's don't apply for grants every year.
- b. Possible CLG Grant Projects: Dennis asked about possible CLG projects. Matt responded that we could seek an additional historic district nomination for Taft's Flat or update one of the historic districts established in the mid to late 1990s such as Wilder Village or Hartford Village Historic Districts or the Quechee Historic Mill District. He also noted that the Selectboard suggested an archaeological assessment of possible Native American sites in Hartford. Pat reported that the Hartford Historical Society has some information on Native American sites. Matt responded that it would be nice to have that information.

11. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16th at 5:15 p.m.
12. **Adjournment:** Dennis made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan seconded the motion which was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 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).