

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 16, 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, July 21, 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 June 16th HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of June 18th. Dennis thought the HHPC made a decision to provide funds for the Wilder history sign at the meeting. Matt agreed to look into and suggested postponing action on the minutes until the next meeting. The HHPC agreed.
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 were approved by the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (VACHP) with some minor edits related to the uniqueness of the Demers log style homes in a more suburban/urban environment. Matt reported that Architectural Historian Brian Knight attended the meeting which turned out to be very helpful as there was a discussion between Brian, the VACHP and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation staff. Following the edits, the nominations were sent to the National Park Service (NPS) for approval. Matt is unsure of the timeframe for the NPS to review and act on the nominations.
3. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that State Archivist David Schutz is helping VTrans put together a long-term loan agreement between Hartford and VTrans/State of Vermont for the weathervane. David also is helping to provide a pedestal that can be used to display the weathervane. VTrans Historic Preservation Officer Judith Ehrlich noted that they will consult with us when they consider the security details for the weatehrvane.
4. **Historical District Signs and the Wilder History Sign:** Matt reported that Wilder resident Bonnie Arnold went before the Selectboard to request that the Town be the fiscal agent for the Wilder History Sign. The Selectboard gave their approval.

Jonathan reported that the historic district sign on Waterman Hill fell off the signpost due to wood rot. He presented the sign which does not appear to be repairable. Matt reported that the same thing happened to one of the West Hartford signs. He added that sign maker Bonnie Arnold is working on the repair of a Hartford Village sign as well. Since the wooden signs are over fifteen years old, other historic district signs may experience the same thing.

5. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant Request:** Matt reported that he received word that the National Park Service will be releasing funds to states for the CLG program. Once the Town receives and executes the grant agreement, we may begin work on the project.
6. **School District Building at 71 Highland Avenue:** Matt reported that on behalf of Jonathan and the HHPC, he sent a letter to the School District Superintendent asking them to consider alternatives to

demolition of the building. Neither Matt nor Jonathan received a response. Matt will request a site visit to photo document the 19th century building.

7. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Matt reported that the 250th Committee will be meeting next Wednesday. Pat reported that the Committee shared a table with the Historical Society at the 6/25 Hartford Community Coalition Block Party. Dennis reported that the Committee is working on creating 250th banners to erect around Town. Jonathan reported that after discussions with the Division for Historic Preservation, it does not appear that the Theron Boyd House will be available for a 250th event.
8. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that fundraising is nearing completion for the Post World War II Monument. A cast iron eagle from the original World War I Monument will be placed on top of the new monument. Dennis reported that the lights on the World War I & II Monument were stolen. The new monument will be dedicated at the 2026 Memorial Day event.
9. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that we still have two openings. Erik reported that he continues to announce the HHPC openings at Selectboard meetings and will continue to do so.
10. **Announcements:** There were no announcements.
11. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that there will be no August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th at 5:15 p.m. Pat noted that she may not be available 9/17.
12. **Adjournment:** Dennis made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan seconded the motion which was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 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).