

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 17, 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, September 17, 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 July 16th HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of July 16th. There were none. Dennis Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16th as written. Pat Stark seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
2. **Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Jonathan reported that the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination and the Victory Circle/Highland Avenue Historic District Nomination were reviewed by the National Park Service (NPS) and returned to the Town for further documentation. Matt noted that he met Architectural Historian Brian Knight and State Architectural Historian Elizabeth Peebles about planning a response. He stated that the discussion was positive. Brian agreed to do additional research. Matt noted that the CLG grant was closed out and our contract with Hartgen Archaeological Associated expired. He also noted that in his twenty-eight years with the Town, this is the first time an historic district nomination has been returned to the Town by the National Park Service. Dennis stated that he was very surprised since the review by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is so thorough.
3. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Jonathan reported that he emailed State Archivist David Schutz regarding an update and hadn't heard back from David. Matt said that he will follow up as well.
4. **Historical District Signs and the Wilder History Sign:** Matt reported that Wilder resident Bonnie Arnold went before the Selectboard on July 14th to request that the Town be the fiscal agent for the Wilder History Sign. The Selectboard gave their approval. Erik Krauss reported that Great River Hydro made a \$5,000 donation to the Town for the sign. The HHPC agreed that this was great news. Matt will contact Harry Kendrick about the donation.

Matt reported that sign maker Bonnie Arnold is completing work on the repair of two historic district signs. Matt added that there is an additional sign (West Hartford) that needs to be repaired as well. Matt will deliver the sign to Bonnie. Matt noted that Bonnie is also working on an estimate for new historic district signs.

5. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant Request:** Matt reported that the National Park Service released CLG funds to states. The Town was sent a letter requesting acceptance of the grant. The letter was signed by the Town Manager and sent back to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The next step is for VDHP to send the grant agreement. Once the Town receives and executes the grant agreement, work may begin on the project.

6. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Coordinator's Meeting:** Matt reported that he will be attending the fall CLG Coordinator's Meeting on October 29th in Montpelier. He noted that it has been several years since a meeting was held. He added that the number of CLG communities in Vermont has increased from 13 a decade or so ago to the current number of 19. He said that it will be good to hear what other CLG communities are doing.
7. **Project Ideas for the 2026 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Application:** Matt reported that the CLG grant is normally due in December. He suggested discussing possible projects over the next two months. Ideas included an archaeology project or additional work on the Victory Circle and Demers Historic District nominations. Pat noted that archaeology reports have been completed for the White River Junction Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Quechee Gorge Visitor's Center. Jonathan added that a report was completed for the Theron Boyd House as well. Matt asked Pat for copies of those reports.
8. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Dennis reported that the 250th Committee will be meeting next Wednesday. He noted that there was a very good turnout at the Quechee Abenaki Garden Tour. Dennis noted that an Abenaki Three Sister's Garden consists of corn, beans and squash. Matt reported that a 250th Family Country Dance is scheduled for Friday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilder Club. Dennis reported that there will be a 250th component to the November 11th Veterans Day event in White River Junction. Dennis added that the revised 250th banner design was approved by the Town Manager and Department Heads.
9. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that the cast iron eagle from the original World War I Monument was delivered to the monument fabricator in Massachusetts. The eagle will be placed on top of the new monument. Dennis reported that the stolen lights on the World War I & II Monument were replaced with a more secure style. Dennis noted that the brick fundraiser continues.
10. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that we still have two openings.
11. **Announcements:**
 - a. Presentation to Selectboard: Jonathan reported that on Tuesday, September 30th, he will be giving the Selectboard an update regarding the work on the HHPC. Erik suggested a powerpoint presentation. Matt agreed to work with Jonathan on it.
12. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15th at 5:15 p.m.
13. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn. Dennis seconded the motion which was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
14. **HHPC Member Terms:** Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).