

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Approved Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Bonnie Arnold of Red Door Signs.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, in Room 317 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 October 15th HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of October 15th. There were no changes. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15th as written. Pat Stark seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- 3. Historical District Signs:** Sign maker Bonnie Arnold was present to talk about the repair of existing historic district signs and the fabrication of new signs. Currently, Bonnie is repairing two of Hartford's historic district signs. The signs are about fifteen years old and the painted plywood backings are starting to deteriorate. Bonnie noted that she uses sign quality plywood. Jonathan asked if it is better than marine plywood. Bonnie wasn't sure. Jonathan asked what it would cost to fabricate a new sign. Bonnie responded that a rough guess is \$700 per sign. She noted that she would make a template for the signs. Matt noted that there are two missing historic district signs and another sign to be repaired. Pat noted that we want to create signs for the Terraces Historic District. Matt suggested contacting Joe Trottier to see if the Advent Camp would like a historic district sign on the access road to their property. Jonathan suggested that the HHPC do some fundraising for the signs.
- 4. 2026 CLG Grant:** Matt reported that the CLG grant application deadline has been pushed back three months to March 12th. He stated that this will give the HHPC time to figure out the type of archaeological project to pursue. Matt reported that he had a meeting with the State Archaeologist Jess Robinson and Elizabeth Peebles last month to talk about a possible project. Matt suggested doing a little research on the types of archaeology projects and then follow-up with Jess Robinson. The HHPC agreed.
- 5. Demers Avenue and Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Trieschmann made changes to the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination to address the concerns of the National Park Service (NPS) reviewer. Matt stated that Laura did a fine job addressing the NPS issues. He noted that Architectural Historian Brian Knight consented to the changes. The revised Demers Avenue nomination was submitted to the NPS. The next step is for the Division to work on revisions to the Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination. Matt agreed to email the revised nomination to the HHPC.
- 6. Railroad Station Weathervane:** Jonathan reported that he has not heard anything from State Archivist David Schutz about the weathervane project but heard that David is currently very busy with an exhibition.

7. **Railroad Station Improvements:** Matt reported that the improvements to the Railroad Station are winding down. He noted that both the south and east canopies were removed as planned. He presented photographs of the improvements and noted that the Station looks very nice.
8. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant:** Matt reported that he is still waiting for the grant agreement to be issued by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Once the grant agreement is executed, we may begin work on the project. He noted that the HHPC and the Parks and Recreation Department will determine content, a copywriter will prepare the text, and graphic designer will design the panels. He suggested the HHPC start by reviewing the existing panels at the December meeting. The HHPC agreed.
9. **CLG Coordinator's Meeting:** Matt reported that he attended the fall CLG Coordinator's meeting last month in Montpelier. He said that there was a good turnout and it was nice to hear from the other CLG's. He noted that Vermont now has 21 CLG communities. Dennis asked if having more CLG's will make the grant applications more competitive. Matt reported yes to some extent but not every CLG submits a grant application each year. He noted that in recent years, the Vermont CLG program has provided extra credit for providing more than the 40% minimum match as well as providing a higher cash match. Matt will email the HHPC the PowerPoint presentation.
10. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Dennis reported that eight of the ten 250th banners have been installed. He noted that since the 250th Committee is a Town committee, there is no time restriction on how long the banners can be displayed. The HHPC noted that the banners look great. Dennis also reported that the 250th Committee participated in the annual Veteran's Day event at Veterans Memorial Park. He agreed to email the HHPC the text of the script regarding the symbolism of the geese sculpture.
11. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that concrete was poured for the monument base and a base for an additional flagpole. In addition, the collection of veteran names was completed. The monument will be fabricated this winter and completed for the May 25th, 2026 Memorial Day dedication.
12. **HHPC Openings:** Matt noted that the HHPC should step up efforts to recruit more members. The openings are advertised by the Town every month, but it would be helpful if a written description of what the HHPC does would be more enticing. The HHPC agreed. Jonathan volunteered to prepare a description.
13. **Announcements:**
 - a. HHPC CLG Annual Report: Matt reported that he submitted the required CLG Annual Report to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.
 - b. Hartford Woolen Mill Bell: Pat reported that the former Hartford Woolen Mill Bell was erected on a stand adjacent to the Historical Society building in Hartford Village.
14. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th at 5:15 p.m.
15. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn. Dennis seconded the motion which was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.
16. **HHPC Member Terms:** Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).