

# HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

## 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, January 21, 2026, 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 December 17<sup>th</sup> HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of December 17<sup>th</sup>. There were none. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Pat seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
3. **Section 106 Review 27 North Main Street Public Comments:** Matt reported that Verizon intends to collocate telecommunication equipment on top of the mixed-use building at 27 North Main Street. He noted that there is existing telecommunication equipment on the roof. He noted that the proposed Verizon equipment will not exceed the height of the existing telecommunication equipment. Matt provided photographs of the existing building and telecommunication equipment from North Main Street by the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, from South Main Street by the Village Square Parking Lot and from the walkway to the train station. Jonathan noted that the building at 27 North Main Street is not a historic resource. The HHPC concurred that there is no impact on historic resources.
4. **Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that the National Park Service (NPS) approved the Demers Avenue Historic District Nomination. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is expected to work on revisions to the Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination based on feedback provided by the National Park Service. Matt noted that he hasn't heard anything from the VDHP about the timeline but is appreciative of their assistance. The HHPC agreed.
5. **2026 CLG Grant:** Matt reported that the HHPC agreed to seek a CLG grant for an archaeology project. Matt had a meeting with the State Archaeologist Jess Robinson and Elizabeth Peebles to talk about a possible project. Jess suggested doing a phase 1a survey of Town parcels. He also suggested picking one of the Town's rivers for a phase 1a survey. Matt emailed Jess and Elizabeth about doing a townwide survey. He is waiting to hear back. Matt distributed information on a phase 1a archaeological survey. He thinks we should wait to hear back if a townwide overview would be the most appropriate next step for the HHPC. If it doesn't, select one of the other projects. Matt stated that CLG grant application deadline is March 12<sup>th</sup> so we have time to decide on a project. The HHPC agreed.
6. **Railroad Row Kiosk Certified Local Government Grant:** Matt reported that we started talking about the kiosk project last month. He noted that he spoke with Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler about the kiosk. Scott responded that he doesn't need park information on the kiosk but he feels strongly that information about the Armed Forces sculpture be included. Matt also reported that he received an email from Monument Committee Chair Mary Kay Brown about her interest providing input into the process to develop the panels for the kiosk. Matt responded that he welcomes her input. Matt also noted that we want to get input from the Downtown Business

Association and the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce. The HHPC agreed. Dennis stated that Veterans also would like the opportunity to provide input.

Matt noted that we will be designing four panels with assistance from a graphic designer and copywriter.

Pat suggested that the following ideas for for the four panels:

1. Town history
2. White River Junction history
3. Park/monuments
4. Railroad Row history

Dennis suggested a panel on the history of transportation.

Matt noted that last month there was agreement to discontinue the Connecticut River Scenic Byway map. Instead, the HHPC consider a different map such as a map of Hartford or of the Upper Valley.

Dennis suggested that the new panels have plenty of photos and less narrative. Erik agreed and suggested using a QR Code to provide access to additional information. Others agreed.

Matt suggested setting up a meeting with the Downtown Business Association and inviting Mary Kay Brown to an upcoming HHPC meeting. The HHPC agreed.

7. **Historical District Signs:** Matt reported that he is waiting to hear from sign maker Bonnie Arnold about a timeframe to repair the two damaged historic district signs. He said he expects the signs to be completed and installed by spring. He will follow up with Bonnie.
8. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that he heard back from State Archivist David Schutz about the weathervane project. David reported that, “the Shelburne Museum is searching for their former pedestal, and next week we will know whether they succeeded in finding it—or whether we will have to commission a new one.” Matt noted that he is not sure if the Town would have to pay for a new pedestal. If we have to pay for it, Pat suggested contacting Dartmouth College or UVM to see if they could take the project on. Dennis suggested Norwich University or Vermont Technical College.
9. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Dennis reported that tomorrow, the Committee will be holding its first meeting in a while. He noted that the Committee plans to participate in the Memorial Day Monument dedication, the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and a reenactment event at Kilowatt Park.
10. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that everything is on schedule. The Committee is still taking orders for the bricks and are investigating a military flyover or marching band for the Memorial Day Monument dedication. Dennis noted that an Eagle Scout will be taking on the new flagpole addition to the park.
11. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that we still have two openings on the Commission. Matt reported that Communication Specialist JD Hawks is available to meet with the HHPC at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk about ways to promote HHPC openings.

**12. Announcements:**

- a. New Book on the History of West Hartford: Pat announced that there is a new book on the History of West Hartford written by West Hartford resident Cameron Clifford.
- b. Reappointment: Erik announced that the Selectboard reappointed Jonathan to the HHPC at the January 6<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.

**13. Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

**14. Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn. Dennis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**15. HHPC Member Terms:** Dennis Brown (3/11/27), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/17/28) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/5/29).