

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Draft Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: None

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Matt noted that Tim Fariel is the new Selectboard Liaison for the HHPC.

- 1. Public Comments:** Jonathan asked if there were any public comments. There were none.
- 2. Approval of the February 18th HHPC Meeting Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any comments regarding the meeting minutes of February 18th. Dennis noted a correction. Jonathan noted a correction. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Jonathan seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- 3. 2026 CLG Grant:** Matt reported that it is apparent that we need more time and discussion to narrow down a specific archaeology project before submitting a grant application. There was discussion and agreement that the next step should be inviting John Moody of the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions and Quechee resident Earl Hatley to an upcoming meeting
- 4. Promoting HHPC Openings:** Matt distributed a revised draft of the blurb that Town Communications and Media Specialist J.D. Hawks had drafted. The HHPC discussed the draft and made some changes. Matt will finalize the revisions and send them to J.D. to promote the HHPC openings.
- 5. Victory Circle/Highland Park Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that he hasn't heard anything from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation about the timeline to address comments from the National Park Service regarding the historic district nomination.
- 6. Railroad Row Kiosk:** Matt reported that he met with the Downtown Business Association (DBA) about the Kiosk panels. The DBA was enthusiastic about the kiosk redesign. Regarding the map, they suggested a stylized map of the Upper Valley. They also suggested an explanation of Hartford and the five villages noting that it would be helpful to visitors. The DBA also suggested using QR Codes to reduce the amount of narrative.

Matt reported that he reached out to Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce Director Havah Armstrong Walther about the kiosk. Havah thought there was a lot that could be done with the kiosk panels. She also liked having information on Hartford and the five villages and the greater Upper Valley. She liked the idea of a map of the Upper Valley and thinks it would be beneficial to have information about the Connecticut River. Havah suggested a follow-up phone call to discuss further.

Dennis suggested providing information on log drives on the Connecticut River. Jonathan suggested including information on Amelia Earhart landing her plane at the White River Junction Airport.

Matt suggested that the HHPC continue discussions on the kiosk panels. Once we have a better idea of what we want for the kiosk, to hold a community discussion and invite public comments. Then, we

would hire a graphic designer and copy writer. The HHPC agreed. Jonathan stated that we will continue discussion on the kiosk at next month's meeting.

7. **Historical District Signs:** Matt reported that he talked to sign maker Bonnie Arnold about the historic district signs. She completed work cleaning and repairing one of the signs and is working on the other which she expects to be done soon. Regarding new signs, the cost per sign is \$700. She will be able to start work this spring. Matt will talk to Lori Hirshfield about funds for the signs.
8. **Railroad Station Weathervane:** Matt reported that he heard back from State Curator David Schutz that the Shelburne Museum could not locate the pedestal used for the temporary exhibit for the weathervane. As a result, a new pedestal will have to be fabricated. Matt noted that it isn't clear how the pedestal and the security enclosure will be paid for. Matt also reported that he will follow-up on the loan agreement with the Vermont Agency of Transportation.
9. **US 250th Anniversary Commemoration Committee:** Dennis reported that the two missing 250th banners were recovered. Dennis noted that the 250th Committee will be participating in the Memorial Day event at Veterans Park. They are also planning a reenactment event in May and will be involved with the 4th of July event.
10. **Monument Committee:** Dennis reported that an Eagle Scout candidate is working on an additional flagpole at Veterans Park. He will also be refurbishing park benches. Dennis reported that the Monument Committee is investigating adding a goose to the geese sculpture to represent the sixth branch of the armed services, the Space Force. With the recent deployment of the Vermont Air National Guard to the Middle East, Dennis is unsure about their request for a military flyover for the Memorial Day Monument dedication.
12. **Announcements:** There were no announcements.
13. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th at 5:15 p.m. Dennis requested that Matt send out the 2026 HHPC Meeting Schedule.
14. **Adjournment:** Dennis made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 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).