

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Draft Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Roy Black, Pat Stark and chair Jonathan Schechtman.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Dennis Brown.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in Room 2, Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Matt Osborn noted that Susanne Walker Abetti is out of town on business and is unable to make the meeting.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Pat Stark suggested adding the History Trivia Night. Matt Osborn suggested adding the Proposed Twin Pines Housing Trust Development Project in Wilder. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the December 19th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of December 19th. Being none, Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 19th as written. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that he has been contacting potential interviewees for the project to obtain their permission to being interviewed and being contacted by consultants Neil Silberman and Angela Labrador. To date, Matt has confirmed five folks for the interviews including: Arthur Peale, Jeff Knight, John Newton, Larry Hudson and Mary Ann Devins. He suggested that Arthur Peale be interviewed in two separate interview sessions given his extensive knowledge about Hartford cemeteries. The HHPC agreed. Dennis Brown suggested interviewing Ann Collins who was secretary of the Quechee Cemetery for many years. Matt noted that Neil Silberman recommended including some interviews of people closely affiliated with cemeteries, but be folks other than managers in order to get different perspectives. The HHPC agreed. Matt noted that so far, we have three cemetery managers and two non-managers. Matt will continue contacting potential interviewees. Matt noted that Hartford Historical Society Genealogist Mary Ann Devins offered to assist with research for the project.
4. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn presented a Draft of the Historic Resources Chapter. Matt noted that he prepared the Draft with input from Pat Stark and Robin Adair Logan. It was reviewed by the Town Plan Steering Committee. The Steering Committee recommended reorganizing some of the sections to flow better. Matt noted that there are new sections on cemeteries, threats to historic resources, and a Hartford Timeline. He stated that over the past few years, the HHPC has expressed concern about demolition of historic buildings. Matt noted that the revised chapter is about 40% shorter than the existing Historic Resources Chapter. He stated that the Town Plan Steering Committee would like to see a shorter, more engaging and visually pleasing Town Plan. The HHPC reviewed the draft and recommended

several minor changes. Matt agreed to send a word file of the draft to the HHPC. He requested that comments be sent to him by Wednesday, January 23rd.

5. Town Meeting Day Coffee with Committees: Pat Stark reported that the HHPC has been invited to have a table prior to the start of the March 2nd Town Meeting. The HHPC agreed to have a table at the event. Pat and Jonathan volunteered to attend. Matt agreed to put together materials for the table.
6. Annual CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that he submitted the application to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation on December 14th. The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be meeting to review the applications at their January 24th meeting. Matt expects to receive notification of the Advisory Council's decision shortly thereafter.
7. History Trivia Night: Pat Stark reported that the Hartford Historical Society is sponsoring a Vermont History Trivia event at the Wilder Club on Thursday, March 7th. The snow date is March 14th.
8. Proposed Twin Pines Housing Trust Development in Wilder: Matt Osborn reported that the Twin Pines Housing Trust is proposing a four-unit building on the vacant lot across from Datamann on Hartford Avenue in Wilder Village between Locust Street and Hawthorn Street . Matt stated that the site has been vacant for many years. He characterized the design as modern. The project requires a Conditional Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Site Development Plan approval from the Planning Commission. Matt noted that the Zoning Board of Adjustment hearing is tonight at 6:30 p.m. and the Planning Commission hearing is Monday evening at 6:30 p.m.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20th.
10. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.