

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
Draft Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Manager Brannon Godfrey and 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, April 17, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. Minutes of the March 20th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of March 20th. Pat Stark noted a correction. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 20th with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that Coherit Associates continues to make progress on the cemetery project. He noted that Angela Labrador has begun researching Town records on cemeteries. Angela also conducted site visits of the cemeteries last weekend. Neil Silberman has scheduled the three remaining interviews with Barbara Hazen, Christian Street Cemetery; Ralph Knight, Knight Funeral Home and a second interview with Arthur Peale. In addition, half of the transcripts have been completed. Matt stated that a community meeting will be scheduled for June after the written report is completed.
4. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that he will begin work on the Request for Proposals for the Intensive Level Survey for the Taft's Flat residential area. He noted that he will include the 2015 Historic Sites and Structures Survey as an addendum.
5. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that the Planning Commission approved the Draft Town Plan on Monday, April 1st. Two public hearings have been scheduled with the Selectboard on Tuesday, May 7th and Tuesday, May 21st and consider adoption. Matt noted that work on the next update will begin in the fall. He stated that there will be more opportunity to make the Plan more concise and visually pleasing. Matt noted that although the Historic Resources chapter was updated with this draft, the HHPC may want to make additional changes.
6. Proposed Rule Changes to National Register Nominations: Matt Osborn reported that there are proposed rule changes to National Register Nominations that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation is very concerned about it. Robin Adair Logan reported that she has reviewed the changes and has concerns too. She agreed to e-mail her notes to the HHPC. She stated that it is not good news for historic preservation or for future historic district nominations.
7. Quechee Gorge Bridge Meeting: Matt Osborn reported that Robin Adair Logan and he attended the meeting on the Quechee Gorge Bridge rehabilitation project on Monday, April 8th. He noted that the meeting was well-attended and there was consensus on the fencing style and color. Dennis Brown noted that Town staff was well-represented at the meeting. He said that the consensus was for the

bridge railings/fencing be dark green. Jonathan Schechtman responded that the standard VTrans green would work too. Robin Adair thinks black would be more in keeping with the historic character of the bridge, but noted she was out voted at the 4/8 meeting. Jonathan reported that there is a public survey that about design for those who did not attend the meeting.

8. Wilder School Rehabilitation: Matt Osborn reported that Pat Stark and he attended a meeting with Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells and the architect and engineer for the \$4 million rehabilitation project last week. Matt distributed copies of the plans. He noted that the School District hired architectural historian Scott Neuman and consulted with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Matt also noted that the project will meet the Secretary of Interior Standards. Robin Adair Logan stated that she likes what she sees.
9. Valley Bible Church House: Matt Osborn reported that he was contacted by the Valley Bible Church about their intention to demolish a small house on their property. Matt had requested permission to tour the interior of the house to photo document the house. He stated the Church representative agreed. Robin Adair Logan requested to join Matt when he visits the house. Jonathan Schechtman suggested discussing alternatives to demolition. Robin Adair noted that presently, the Town doesn't require a demolition permit and that the Benjamin Wright House (one of the oldest houses in Hartford) was demolished a few years ago.
10. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th.
11. Adjournment: Jonathan Schechtman thanked Brannon Godfrey for coming to the meeting. Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.