

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 18, 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 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Matt Osborn reported that he heard from Susanne Walker Abetti and Robin Adair Logan that they are unable to attend the meeting.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested adding the Valley Bible House. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the November 20th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of November 20th. There were none. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 20th as written. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. 2020 CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that he submitted the CLG grant application on December 13th. Jonathan Schechtman stated that he appreciated Dennis Brown's support at the December 4th Selectboard meeting to approve submittal of the CLG grant application. Dennis responded that it is a pleasure to work with the HHPC. Matt reported that he hasn't heard whether it will be a competitive grant round or not, but there is a possibility that the Town could receive less than the \$11,440 grant request. Matt reported that the Vermont Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation will be meeting to review the CLG grant applications at their January 23rd meeting. Notices will be going out shortly thereafter.
4. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that Architectural Historian Brian Knight will be attending the January 15th HHPC meeting to provide an update on the project and discuss next steps. Matt noted that Brian has completed quite a bit of the research and field work to date.
5. Underground Railroad: Matt Osborn reported that Selectboard member Jameson Davis asked if the Commission is aware of any information indicating that the Underground Railroad existed in Hartford noting that the Underground Railroad existed in Royalton. Matt Osborn responded that the Underground Railroad also existed in Norwich. Pat Stark responded that the Hartford Historical Society doesn't have any information on the presence of the Underground in Hartford. She stated that she isn't sure of the best way to proceed. The HHPC agreed to continue discussion on the subject at another time.
6. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that the White River Junction Historic District Nomination update and expansion was officially listed on the National Register December 10, 2019. Jonathan Schechtman responded that it is great news.
7. Valley Bible Church House: Matt Osborn reported that he contacted Mike Lavalla as a follow-up to the HHPC discussion last month. Mike responded that he discussed with the church leadership about the HHPC request about the possibility of moving the house as an alternative to demolition. Mike noted that he has not heard back from the church leadership.

8. WWI Honor Roll Monument: Pat Stark reported that the Monument Committee met recently to discuss next steps for the monument. Pat noted that the estimate for full restoration would cost about \$100,000 while a hybrid restoration would cost about \$40,000. The Committee agreed to proceed with the hybrid alternative. Pat noted that the Hartford Historical Society is acting as the fiscal agent for the project. Dennis Brown noted that some of the names may have misspellings. Pat noted that there are no plans to research name spellings. Jonathan Schechtman asked about the possibility of incorporating World War II veterans on the monument as well. Pat responded that it is possible. Dennis reported that his wife is willing to attend a HHPC meeting to discuss the project.
9. HHPC 2020 Meeting Schedule: Matt Osborn distributed the 2020 HHPC Meeting Schedule.
10. Old Fashioned Christmas: Pat Stark reported that this year's Old Fashioned Christmas was a success with higher attendance. She also reported that the Dismiss House residents participated in the event.
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th.
12. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.