

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Approved Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Dennis Brown in person. Consultants David Raphael and Sarah Pelkey from LandWorks via Skype.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in Room 2, Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn responded the Quechee Fells Barn and Susanne Walker Abetti responded the article about builder Mike Davidson and White River Junction in the Vermont Builders and Architects. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the February 21st and March 21st HHPC Meetings: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of February 21st and March 21st. There were none. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 21st and March 21st meetings as written. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved.
3. Public Outreach and Education CLG Project: Matt Osborn reported that “Shining a Light” kicked off on Friday, April 6th during the First Friday event. The Old Firehouse was the featured building. The next buildings lined up for “Shining a Light” include the Garipay House, Town Hall and Meetinghouse. Matt will inquire with other building owners about “Shining a Light”.

At this point, the HHPC welcomed consultants David Raphael and Sarah Pelkey via Skype to discuss the Public Outreach and Education Project. Sarah Pelkey started by talking about “Shining a Light”. The lights have been rented for a month, but the lease could be extended. She noted that building lights can detract from the effectiveness of the spot lights. She suggested selecting a color close the color of the façade. Susanne Walker Abetti commented that the lighting brings out the architectural features of a building. She suggested purchasing lights to use on a regular basis. Sarah stated that LandWorks will develop a poster to go along with the lighting display. Jonathan Schechtman recommended that the poster be readable driving by. David Raphael said that they would do their best to achieve that given the size of the poster.

Sarah Pelkey stated that they propose a walk and talk event in Wilder Village either Saturday, 5/12 or 5/19. LandWorks is working with architectural historian Brian Knight on the tour specifics. The walking tour would be split into two groups if there are enough people. Roy Black volunteered to assist in the tour. Matt Osborn suggested starting at the Wilder School since they have more parking than the Wilder Club and Library. LandWorks plans to have handouts including a coloring book. There was discussion about doing a virtual tour for those unable to walk and using the Wilder Club and Library.

LandWorks also proposes developing Geocaches as part of the overall project. Sarah Pelkey described it as, “a global scavenger hunt, where participants use GPS receivers to find cleverly hidden containers called geocaches. Geocaching is not merely about hunting down caches but is a bridge between the world of technology and the outdoors. It provides participants a fun way to

explore and appreciate the world around them, from scenic vistas to historic structures. The objective of Geocaching is to locate hidden caches using GPS technology and a little sleuthing. A cache is a waterproof box that contains a log book for all successful searchers to sign and few small trinkets like foreign currency, small rubber animals, stickers and toy action figures that geocachers exchange with each other.” Sarah suggested geocaches in the five villages and keep them open for at least six months. LandWorks will set it up, but it will require maintaining the physical piece and on-line presence as well as monitoring both. She noted that Geocaches are an educational tool and is popular with many age groups.

4. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that the Town Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting on April 9th. Pat Stark is representing the HHPC on the Steering Committee. Matt noted that Pat and Matt will be meeting to review the Historic Resources Chapter, develop recommendations and then discuss with the HHPC.
5. Quechee Fells Barn: Matt Osborn reported that general manager Ken Lallier of the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association (QLLA) inquired about reuse and possible changes to the Quechee Fells Barn located on Quechee Main Street. QLLA is in the early stages of planning for the future of the building. Matt directed Ken to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP). Devin Colman and Jamie Duggan of VDHP conducted a site visit two weeks ago with Ken and determined that the main barn which dates back to the 19th century and “appears to be in good condition and well maintained.” Two appendages to the main barn “have really been carved up inside and altered physically and structurally. We didn’t see a lot of historic integrity left in them.” Matt stated that he appreciated the VDHP site visit and being contacted by QLLA. He hopes that the site visit will assist QLLA with their future plans for the barn.
6. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that he received the grant agreement from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation earlier today. He hopes to begin work developing a Request for Proposals in the coming weeks. Dennis Brown, who serves on the Town Cemetery Committee, reported that the issue of collapsed graves came up at a recent meeting.
7. Vermont Builders and Architecture Magazine Article: Susanne Walker Abetti presented an article about developer Mike Davidson in the Vermont Builders and Architects Magazine and his work restoring buildings in White River Junction and Lebanon. Matt Osborn offered to scan the article and distribute it to the HHPC.
8. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Photo Request: Matt Osborn reported that the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) requested a photograph of the HHPC in front of their favorite building with the NAPC Annual Conference Poster. The HHPC proceeded to take a photograph in front of the Town Hall.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th.
10. Adjournment: Roy Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Susanne Walker Abetti and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.