

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, June 19, 2019  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Roy Black, Robin Adair Logan, 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, June 19, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Matt Osborn noted that the cemetery community meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Since the meeting requires setting up, he requested that the HHPC meeting conclude by 6:00 p.m. The HHPC agreed.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. Minutes of the April 17<sup>th</sup> HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of April 17<sup>th</sup>. There were no corrections. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 17<sup>th</sup> as written. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved.
3. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that Coherit Associates has produced a great deal of valuable information for the cemetery project. They produced a “Historic Narrative of Hartford’s Cemeteries”, survey forms for each cemetery and the “Report on Oral History Interviews”. Matt noted that the quality of the work is impressive. The HHPC agreed. Matt reported that he provided comments on the “Historic Narrative” to Angela and Neil. He also has a few comments on the “Report on Oral History Interviews” that he will provide to Neil. Matt said he is looking forward to tonight’s community meeting. Matt noted that a second meeting will take place, but the topic and date have not been decided. He suggested talking to Angela and Neil following tonight’s meeting. The HHPC agreed.

Jonathan Schechtman noted that Susanne Walker Abetti and Robin Adair Logan suggested revisions to the state of historic preservation in Hartford in the “Historic Narrative of Hartford’s Cemeteries”. He acknowledged that their concerns are legitimate but did not feel that the consultant’s report is the appropriate location to note them. He suggested examining other avenues. The Commission agreed.

4. Taft’s Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that he is near completion of the Request for Proposals for the Intensive Level Survey for the Taft’s Flat residential area. He plans to release the RFP by the end of the month.
5. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that after two public hearings, the Selectboard adopted the updated Town Plan on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The next update will begin in the fall and is expected to take 18-24 months. Matt noted that this is an opportunity to make the Plan more visually pleasing and reader-friendly. He suggested incorporating historic photos and maps for the Historic Resources chapter. The HHPC agreed.
6. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that State Architectural Historian Devin Colman is winding down his review of the WRJ Historic District update and expansion. Matt noted that Devin is taking a second look at some of the contributing properties in

order to make a final determination before presenting to the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

7. Wilder School Rehabilitation: Matt Osborn reported that the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the Conditional Use Permit and the Planning Commission approved the Site Development Plan for the \$4 million rehabilitation project.
8. Valley Bible Church House: Matt Osborn reported that he met with Mike Lavalla of Valley Bible Church about their intention to demolish a small house on church property. Matt had requested that the Church look into alternatives to demolition. Mike Lavalla responded that they will look into it. Matt noted that if the Church eventually decides to demolish the house, they will grant the HHPC permission to tour the interior of the house to photo document it.
9. Annual Vermont Historic Preservation/Downtown Conference: Matt Osborn reported that the entire HHPC attended the annual Historic Preservation Conference in Montpelier. Highlights included a tour of the State Capital building and the State Historical Society building and a street fest on Langdon Street. Commission members reported on the sessions that they attended and concluded that it is a worthwhile conference.
10. South Main Street Project: Robin Adair Logan reported that the Planning Commission had a sketch plan discussion for a five-story building adjacent to Cover. The project must go through the design review process before going before the Planning Commission.
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.
12. Adjournment: Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.