

# HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

## Approved Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Susanne Walker Abetti, 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, WRJ on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Matt Osborn suggested adding the Polka Dot Diner. Jonathan Schechtman suggested adding 1767 & 1781 Quechee Main Street. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the May 16<sup>th</sup> HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup>. There were none. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup> as written. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Schechtman and approved.
3. Quechee Gorge Bridge Safety Fencing: Matt Osborn reported that tomorrow evening, there will be a meeting on the Quechee Gorge Bridge Scoping Study. The bridge is due for regular preventative maintenance. Matt noted that the Report touches on the historic value of the bridge, but provides little detail. Matt added that suicide prevention fencing is included in the Scoping Study. He stated that it is a priority to get up temporary fencing this summer. Since the proposed temporary fencing is chain link and not very attractive, he suggested focusing on the permanent fencing design which will be decided in the not too distant future. The HHPC agreed. Robin Adair Logan stated that nets have been an effective solution for many places such as Ithaca, New York and other locations in the US and abroad. Jonathan Schechtman stated that he plans on attending the meeting. He asked for a copy of the National Register Individual Nomination for the Bridge. Matt agreed and stated that he will provide Jonathan with the Scoping Report and Suicide Prevention Study. Robin Adair Logan stated that she hoped to attend the meeting as well.
4. Public Outreach and Education CLG Project: Matt Osborn reported that Wilder Walk and Talk event on May 19<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Twenty-two people attended the walk and most attended the powerpoint presentation led by Roy Black following the walk in the Wilder Club. He noted that Architectural Historian Brian Knight led the tour with assistance from consultant Sarah Pelkey. Matt stated that several people commented on how nice an event it was. He added that the HHPC should consider doing this event in the other villages. Matt distributed copies of the architectural coloring book and walking tour guide. The HHPC really liked the coloring book and suggested distributing it. Jonathan Schechtman suggested providing the coloring book file on the website.

Matt Osborn distributed copies of the LandWorks outline for the HHPC website and Architectural History of Hartford booklet. Matt stated that LandWorks is looking for feedback. The HHPC liked the outline. Robin Adair Logan suggested providing links to sources for historic preservation for the website and architectural booklet. The HHPC agreed.

5. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that the first of five community forums was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hartford High School and focused on Town Plan 101 and Community Priorities. There were 25 people at the meeting. Matt noted that there were very engaged small group discussions. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at VINS in Quechee at 6:30 p.m. The topics

are energy and transportation. Matt noted that a meeting on community facilities and services and historic preservation is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> at the West Hartford Library.

6. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that the Selectboard approved submission of the updated and expanded historic district nomination at their May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Matt noted that Jonathan Schechtman and Brian Knight also attended the meeting. Jonathan noted that the Selectboard seemed very enthusiastic about the project. Matt stated that the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be reviewing the nomination at their July meeting.
7. VA Hospital Nomination: Matt Osborn stated that he is pleased that the individual nomination of the administration building at the VA Hospital was submitted to the National Park Service.
8. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that he attended a Town Cemetery Committee meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> to get input on the Committee's cemetery research needs. He noted that the grant coincides with the work on the Cemetery Committee. Matt stated that he hopes to begin work developing a Request for Proposals in the coming weeks.
9. Annual Downtown/Historic Preservation Conference: Jonathan Schechtman reported that he attended the annual downtown/historic preservation conference in Bristol along with Pat Stark, Roy Black and Matt Osborn. All agreed that it was an excellent event and that Bristol is a very nice, small downtown.
10. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Jonathan Schechtman reported that Roy Black and he staffed the HHPC information table at the HCC Annual Block Party at Lyman Point Park on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Matt Osborn noted that it is good for the HHPC to get the exposure since more than 500 people attended the event.
11. Polka Dot Diner: Matt Osborn reported that new owner Mike Davidson has commissioned Architect George Hathorn to work on renovations to the Polka Dot Diner which will require design review. The HHPC was pleased to hear that the diner will be renovated and reopened.
12. 1767 & 1781 Quechee Main Street: Jonathan Schechtman reported that he attended a site visit with staff of Simon Pearce, Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells and Matt Osborn on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The property is owned by Simon Pearce and is located across the street from the restaurant/store/mill building. Simon Pearce is considering possible demolition and reconstruction to meet the needs of the company. Three of the four buildings are listed as contributing properties in the Quechee Historic Mill District. Simon Pearce staff met with Town staff to determine their options. Matt noted that the property is a Quechee Lakes Landowners Association property and may be under Act 250 review. He provided Simon Pearce with State Architectural Historian Devin Colman's contact information. The HHPC is hopeful that demolition can be avoided or limited. Matt stated that he will keep the HHPC apprised of the project as it moves forward.
13. Town Manager Announcement: Dennis Brown reported that last night Town Manager Leo Pullar announced that he will be leaving his position at the end of November due to health reasons. The HHPC was sorry to hear the news.
14. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.
15. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.