

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
Draft 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.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in the basement meeting room of the Quechee Library, 1957 Quechee Main Street, Quechee on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 4:44 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 June 19th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of June 19th. There were no corrections. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 19th as written. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. Simon Pearce Property Site Visit: Jonathan Schechtman reported that the site visit to discuss options for Simon Pearce properties on the north side of Quechee Main Street went well. Simon Pearce would like to make improvements to several buildings and was seeking input from the Historic Preservation Commission and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Architect Jay Barrett and Chief Executive Officer Jay Benson were in attendance and discussed their thoughts and ideas to meet the changing needs of the Company. Jay Barrett stated that the meeting was very helpful and suggested meeting in the near future as they further develop their concepts.
4. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that he has reviewed the revised reports from Coherit Associates, "Historic Narrative of Hartford's Cemeteries" and the "Report on Oral History Interviews". Matt noted that the requested corrections to the reports were made. The reports are now ready for distribution. Matt stated that he will post the reports on the Town website in the next few weeks. Matt reported that a meeting on cemetery maintenance with Angela Labrador and Neil Silberman has been scheduled for Monday, August 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Matt Osborn reported that he is working on the grant close-out report. He asked the HHPC to sign their timesheets for the volunteer hours working on the project. He said that using HHPC volunteer time on the project helps leverage more grant funds.

5. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that the Request for Proposals for the Intensive Level Survey for the Taft's Flat residential area has been reviewed by Town manager Brannon Godfrey and finalized. The RFP will be issued on Friday. It will be advertised in the Valley News, posted on the Town website and state bid site and e-mailed to a list of architectural historians. The deadline for proposals is August 9th. The HHPC will be sent proposals to review and discuss at the 8/21 HHPC Meeting.
6. Possible CLG Projects: Matt Osborn reported that applications for the CLG grant are due in December. He suggested discussing possible projects. Susanne Walker Abetti stated that her priority for the HHPC is a demolition ordinance. Matt responded that the HHPC has talked about it for a while. He agrees that this would be a good project noting that we could hire a consultant with

experience with demolition ordinances and they could lead a public process. Pat Stark agreed stating that she thinks it is good to have a third party develop the ordinance. Susanne stated that the ordinance needs to address demolition by neglect. The consensus of the Commission is to pursue this as a CLG grant project. Matt agreed to discuss with State Architectural Historian Devin Colman.

7. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that State Architectural Historian Devin Colman completed his review of the WRJ Historic District update and expansion. He submitted an e-mail to Matt on June 21st with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VDHP) recommendation to change the designation of five buildings in the district from contributing to non-contributing.

- Polka Dot Diner, 7 North Main Street, HD #15
- White River Savings Bank/Edson Grocery, 104 South Main Street, HD #24
- Parker Commercial Block, 112 South Main Street, HD #25
- Langdon House, 178 Gates Street, HD #66
- Daley House Garage, 128 Gates Street, HD #76A

Matt presented photos of the five buildings. He stated that he contacted Architectural Historian Brian Knight, consultant for the White River Junction Historic District nomination. Brian responded that he recommends going along with the VDHP's changes. Matt also noted that Robin Adair Logan agreed with the recommendations. The HHPC discussed and concurred with the VDHP.

7. Valley Bible Church House: Matt Osborn reported that he heard back from Mike Lavalla of Valley Bible Church regarding the house on their property and options to demolition. Mike Lavalla responded that they looked at alternatives, but they still want to pursue demolition. The house has not been lived-in in thirty years and needs a great deal of work. Dennis Brown noted that the house doesn't fit there. Matt noted that the Church will grant the HHPC permission to tour the interior of the house to photo document it before demolition. The HHPC requested that we look into the feasibility of relocation. Matt stated that he is trying to schedule a site visit with Robin Adair Logan.
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21st.
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 5:45 p.m.