

## HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 15, 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, August 15, 2018. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 4:34 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 July 11<sup>th</sup> HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup>. Susanne Walker Abetti noted a correction. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup> with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved.
3. Quechee Gorge Bridge Safety Fencing: Matt Osborn reported that Robin Adair Logan and he attended the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting on the Quechee Gorge Bridge Temporary fencing. The meeting was well-attended and the consensus was to move forward with fencing as soon as possible to prevent further suicides. The proposed temporary fencing includes dark green chain link to blend in with surrounding conifer trees and has eight slots on each side of the bridge for viewing and photography. Matt noted that VTrans will be focusing on a permanent solution as part of the Scoping Study for the bridge improvements currently underway. He added that VTrans is aware that the HHPC wants to be involved in discussions for a permanent solution to suicide prevention on the bridge. Jonathan Schechtman asked what the timeframe is on installation of the temporary fencing. Matt responded that it is expected to be installed in the second half of September.
4. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that he responded to the property owners who strongly objected to having their property included in the expanded historic district. He e-mailed the gentlemen and followed up with a phone call. The property owners were adamant that they did not want to be included in the district. Matt noted that the consensus of the Commission at last month's meeting was to remove the property from the District unless it would jeopardize the rest of the District. Matt contacted State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Treischman who indicated that taking the property out of the district would not jeopardize the district. As a result, Matt then requested that the property be removed from the district. He reported that the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation met on July 26<sup>th</sup> to review the White River Junction nomination for the proposed update and expanded district. The Advisory Council approved the nomination and requested a revised map and some minor changes. Once revised, the nomination will be submitted to the National Park Service.
5. Public Outreach and Education CLG Project: Matt Osborn reported that Landworks submitted the Draft Historic Hartford Project Workbook and he e-mailed the HHPC with a link to the Draft yesterday. The HHPC discussed the draft. Matt asked the HHPC to get any additional comments to him by the end of the week.

Matt noted that he is working on close-out of the grant. He asked the HHPC what they thought of the project and the consultant Landworks. The consensus was that the project was a good start to the public outreach and education campaign. They also agreed that Landworks did a very good job, concluding that Landworks knows and understands Hartford, having worked here on a number of projects over the years.

6. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that five community forums on the Town Plan update were held in June and July. The July 11<sup>th</sup> forum, held at the West Hartford Library addressed community facilities and services and historic preservation. Matt reported that Robin Adair Logan and he participated in the historic preservation small group discussion which included ten people who were generally supportive of historic preservation. Matt noted that the group encouraged more public outreach and education by the HHPC, to be proactive with the development community, but cautioned about being too restrictive about property maintenance. Jonathan Schechtman asked the HHPC about public outreach and education. Pat Stark responded that she would like to hear what other communities are doing. Roy Black noted that it is hard to get people to support historic preservation. Matt noted that the HHPC understood that the current public outreach and education project would be followed by a Phase II of the project. The HHPC agreed to discuss the issue of options this fall for a possible CLG grant application in December. Matt noted that Pat and Robin Adair will be working with Matt this fall on an update of the historic resources chapter of the Town Plan.
7. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that he is presently working on a Request for Proposals and hopes to release by the end of the month.

Dennis Brown, who serves on the Town Cemetery Committee, reported that the Committee is grappling with reduced revenue since only about 20% of the deceased are currently being buried, while 80% are being cremated. Cemeteries are also dealing with higher maintenance costs and some have a lack of space for expansion. Dennis encouraged HHPC members to attend an upcoming Cemetery Committee Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Robin Adair Logan expressed an interest in attending.

8. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.
9. Adjournment: Roy Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.