

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
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.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested adding the Cemetery Project Update and an update on the Simon Pearce Project.
2. Minutes of the July 17th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of July 17th. Susanne Walker Abetti suggested an addition to the Simon Pearce Property site visit. The Commission agreed. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 17th with the noted addition. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. HHPC Budget: Matt Osborn presented the current fiscal year 2020/2021 HHPC Budget which covers the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:
 - Travel & Meetings \$250
 - Advertising \$300
 - Membership Dues \$100
 - Materials & Supplies \$400
 - Grants & Appropriations \$2,200
 - Total \$3,250

Matt Osborn noted that the HHPC received a 23% increase in the budget this fiscal year. He suggested that the HHPC not ask for an increase this year. The HHPC agreed. Pat Stark made a motion to accept the current budget as the budget for the 20/21 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved 4 to 0.

4. CLG 4-Year Evaluation: Matt Osborn responded that the HHPC is due for its 4-year CLG evaluation. Matt noted that evaluation will be done via conference call. He asked the HHPC if anyone is interested in participating in it. Jonathan Schechtman requested the specific information on the evaluation.
5. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that the second consultant interview was held last week. He reported that the consultant interviewed the previous week had withdrawn his proposal. Jonathan Schechtman noted that the HHPC felt that either consultant would do a good job on the project. It was also noted that the remaining consultant, Brian Knight, has completed three projects for the Town and has done very good work. It was agreed to recommend that Brian Knight be hired for the job. Matt stated that the next step is to prepare a procurement memo to the town manager and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

6. 2020 CLG Grant: Matt Osborn reported that applications for the CLG grant are due in December. He noted that in July, the HHPC agreed to pursue hiring a consultant to facilitate a public process and develop a demolition ordinance. As requested by the HHPC, Matt contacted the State Architectural Historian and CLG Coordinator Devin Colman who thinks it would be an excellent project. Matt noted that there are several planning consultants who would be good candidates for the project. Dennis Brown asked if the HHPC has looked at examples of demolition ordinances in Vermont. Jonathan Schechtman responded yes.
7. White River Junction Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that State Architectural Historian Devin Colman said the White River Junction Nomination is in the process of being submitted to the National Park Service for their consideration.
8. Valley Bible Church House: Matt Osborn reported that Robin Adair Logan and he did a site visit and tour of the house with church member Mike Lavalla. Mike noted that the Church leadership 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. The HHPC hoped that it would be feasible to relocate the house to another site.
9. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn reported that a meeting with cemetery managers was held on August 12th. He characterized it as a very productive meeting. He noted that it may help jumpstart an effort to create a town cemetery commission. Matt also reported that consultant Angela Labrador intended to list all of the cemeteries in Hartford to the State List of Archaeological Sites. Matt informed property owners Rosalind and Julius Anderson and Robert Herbert who were supportive of the effort.
10. Simon Pearce Property Site Visit: Matt Osborn reported that Architect Jay Barrett contacted him to report that Simon Pearce is not quite ready to meet with the HHPC about their renovation plans for Quechee Main Street. A meeting may take place next month.
11. Drive-In Sign: Dennis Brown reported that with the roundabout project moving forward, the drive-in sign will be removed. Matt Osborn reported that he discussed the sign with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation staff and without a connection to a building or property, the sign does not have historic value. Susanne Walker Abetti responded that the sign is a town icon and should be retained and relocated. She noted that it has communication value.
12. WWI Monument: Dennis Brown reported that the cost of restoration of the monument would be \$150,000. There are 284 names listed on the monument and 5 names missing.
13. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th.
14. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.