

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
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, Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested that the Wilder Village Historic District sign and Jonathan requested adding Oral History Project. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the September 19th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of September 19th. Roy Black noted a correction and proceeded to make a motion to approve the Minutes of September 19th with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. Cemetery Research/Oral History Project: Matt Osborn distributed the Request for Proposals for the cemetery research and oral history project. He reported that it was released on Friday, October 5th. So far, he has received several requests for the RFP. Proposals are due October 29th. Matt will distribute the proposals to the HHPC on October 30th. He requested that the HHPC review the proposals and get comments and score sheets back to him by November 6th. If necessary, he suggested holding interviews before or after the November 14th HHPC meeting. The Commission agreed. Jonathan Schechtman asked the Commission what research information they are interested in collecting for the project. Susanne Walker Abetti said she was interested in human interest stories. Jonathan suggested information about cemetery stones and tombstone symbolism. Matt suggested information on the history of the cemeteries.
4. Annual CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that he learned this week that the annual CLG grant application is due December 17th. Therefore, the HHPC will need to come up with a project by the November 14th Commission meeting, develop a budget and go before the Selectboard before the 12/17 deadline. Matt stated that it isn't much time to formulate a public outreach and education proposal. As an alternative, he suggested one of the historic district nominations in the Taft's Flat area identified in the two Historic Sites and Structures Surveys. The HHPC agreed. Included were five possibilities:
 - Victory Circle, Post World War I (8 houses)
 - Demers Avenue, 1937-1963 (13 houses)
 - Worcester Avenue, 1938-1954 (13 houses)
 - Highland Park, 1906-1966 (38 houses)
 - Manning Park, 1930-1967 (27 houses)

The HHPC ranked the top three districts:

1. Demers Avenue
2. Victory Circle
3. Worcester Avenue

Matt Osborn agreed to contact Architectural Historian about his thoughts on the possibility about doing two historic district nominations under one CLG grant.

5. Town Plan Update: Matt Osborn reported that he is working on the Historic Resources chapter of the Town Plan and expects to have a draft to the HHPC for the 11/14 meeting. Matt stated that he has been working with Pat Stark and Robin Adair Logan on the Historic Resources update.
6. Quechee Gorge Bridge Safety Fencing: Jonathan Schechtman reported that construction of the Quechee Gorge Bridge temporary fencing began this week. Susanne Walker Abetti noted the photo of the bridge fencing on the front page of today's Valley News. She expressed concern that the fencing will become permanent. Matt Osborn responded that the temporary fencing is intended to be in place for three to four years. The State of Vermont has indicated that a process to select a permanent solution is planned.
7. White River Junction Design Review Workshop: Matt Osborn reported that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and Historic New England held a design review workshop at the Hotel Coolidge September 21st and 22nd. He noted that Robin Adair Logan, Roy Black and he attended. He also noted that Planning Director Lori Hirshfield was a presenter and Design Review Committee chair Denise Welch May led a small group discussion. Overall, Roy and Matt thought it was a very good event.
8. Hartford Oral History Project: Jonathan Schechtman suggested adding Hartford resident Bode Kelton to the list of residents to interview for the Oral History Project. Jonathan said he has spoken to Bode and he has some excellent stories about Hartford.
9. Wilder Village Historic District Sign: Matt Osborn reported that Town Manager Leo Pullar authorized replacement of the stolen historic district sign in Wilder Village. The sign was fabricated and installed by sign maker Steve Arkwright. Matt noticed the sign on his way to work this week.
10. Next HHPC Meeting: Matt Osborn noted that since the 3rd Wednesday in November is Thanksgiving eve and folks may be out of town or entertaining guests, the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday, November 14th. The HHPC agreed.
11. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.