

# HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

## Approved Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Susanne Walker Abetti, Roy Black, Robin Adair Logan, Pat Stark and Chair Jonathan Schechtman.

**Staff Present:** Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

**Others Present:** None.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in Meeting Room 2, Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. 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. There were none.
2. Minutes of the December 16, 2015: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of December 16th. Robin Adair Logan noted three corrections. Jonathan noted a correction. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 16<sup>th</sup> with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved.
3. Methodist Church Update: Robin Adair Logan reported that she attended the monthly turkey supper. She expressed concern that the division in the Church seems to be significant. Pat Stark reported that the Church continues to work on building improvements. The next item is insulation.
4. Quechee Community Church: Jonathan Schechtman reported that he attended the last church service held on January 10<sup>th</sup>. He noted that there were many testimonials that were bittersweet. He stated that the building is for sale. Robin Adair Logan reported that she plans on attending the Preservation Trust of Vermont retreat on churches and sacred places. She hopes to learn about repurposing older buildings.
5. Historic Sites & Structures Survey (HSSS): Matt Osborn reported that he submitted the final close-out report to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The report was accepted, the grant closed-out and the Town reimbursed. He recommended that the Commission read the final report from Lyssa Papazian as it contains a great deal of valuable information.
6. Advent Camp Meeting Grounds Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that he received the following project update from consultant Brian Knight:
  - Conducted site visit; took preliminary photographs.
  - Visited Hartford Town Offices - performed deed research and talked with Listers and Town Clerk.
  - Visited Hartford Historical Society - conducted research in Camp folders.
  - Conducted on-line research using historical newspapers, Advent history books, camp meeting books and White River Junction history books.
  - Examined similar camp Meeting Grounds National Register nominations on a national level
  - Reviewed Vermont Division for Historic Preservation religious based National Register and State Register listings.
  - Reviewed Town Lister information on-line.

7. 2016 CLG Grant Project: Matt Osborn reported that the Vermont Historic Preservation Advisory Council will be meeting tomorrow to award the grants. Matt stated that it appears that the amount of the grant requests is equal to the amount of the available grant funds indicating the likely approval of Hartford's grant request. Matt also reported that the Town of Norwich is applying for a CLG grant to create a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century modern historic district nomination for an area of 1950s and 1960s homes in the Hopson Road, Pine Tree Road and Spring Pond Road neighborhood. He distributed a project description and collage of photographs of the buildings. Robin Adair Logan referred to one of the Hopson Road homes as an architectural gem. Matt Osborn agreed.
8. Demolition Ordinance: Matt Osborn reported that the Commission has expressed interest in a demolition ordinance that would establish a process to go through if a property owner seeks to demolish a historic structure. Matt noted that the only location in Hartford with any restrictions on demolishing a historic structure is in the Downtown White River Junction Design Review District if the building is listed as a contributing property on the National Register. Matt noted that he requested examples of demolition ordinances from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, but hasn't received anything yet. Jonathan Schechtman suggested pulling files from earlier HHPC discussions on the subject about ten years ago. Pat Stark suggested developing a list of buildings listed as contributing or eligible for listing on the National Register. The Commission agreed to continue discussion at next month's meeting.
9. Downtown White River Junction Historic District Update: Jonathan Schechtman stated that it is important to have a strong educational component to the White River Junction Historic District nomination update. He noted that it is critical to document changes in the downtown over the last few decades. Matt Osborn responded that we can include this in the Request for Proposals. Hopefully, we can select a consultant with a good skill set for this part of the project.
10. Jericho Schoolhouse: Matt Osborn reported that the Jericho Association received word from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation that they did not receive the historic preservation grant that they applied for in the fall. However, since fundraising efforts have been successful, they expect to begin work this summer.
11. Post World War II Historic District Nominations: Matt Osborn noted that architectural historian Lyssa Papazian's Historic Sites and Structures Survey Report identified several potential mid-century historic districts in Hartford. Matt distributed a photograph of a National Homes plaque from a 1950s ranch home. He noted that last month, he sent the Commission a link to a video on a National Homes manufacturing process. Matt stated that National Homes and other manufacturers of kit homes developed a process to build affordable homes quickly and helped address a severe housing shortage following World War II.
12. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.
13. Adjournment: Roy Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.