

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Draft Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Roy Black, Robin Adair Logan and vice-chair Pat Stark.

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Gail Wright and Donna Wright.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held in Meeting Room 2, Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Vice-chair Pat Stark called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Pat Stark asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested that 24 Maplewood Terrace be added. The Commission agreed.
2. Minutes of the March 16, 2016 HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of March 16th. There were no corrections or additions. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 16th as written. The motion was seconded by Robin Adair Logan and approved.
3. Advent Camp Meeting Grounds Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that consultant Brian Knight completed a letter to cottage owners requesting information about their cottage and the camp. Matt will send out the letters tomorrow.
4. Update Downtown White River Junction Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that he completed a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project that is currently being reviewed by Lori Hirshfield and Devin Colman of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. He expects to release the RFP by April 30th.
5. Demolition Ordinance: Robin Adair Logan reported that she was greatly disheartened to find out about the demolition of the Benjamin Wright House on Maple Street on March 23rd, one of the oldest houses in Hartford. She proceeded to present photographs of the demolition and information from Hartford historical records. She wondered how this could happen. Matt Osborn responded that Hartford does not require a demolition permit. He noted that the HHPC is interested in making this a requirement. Robin Adair expressed concern that Town residents are not aware of the Town's heritage. She noted that in other Vermont communities, it is rare to demolish historic buildings. However, in Hartford we have lost several historic buildings recently. She suggested that the HHPC establish a public education campaign.
6. Preservation Trust of Vermont Award Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that he talked to Paul Wynkoop of Breadloaf Corporations regarding the award nomination of the Hartford Town Hall for the 2016 Preservation Trust of Vermont Awards. Paul just received word that we were not chosen. Paul stated that he will request feedback on the nomination. Matt Osborn responded that there is a lot of competition for the awards. He also noted that the Review Committee may not have approved the changes to the building.

7. Annual Historic Preservation/Downtown Conference: Matt Osborn reported that the Annual Historic Preservation/Downtown Conference is scheduled for Friday, June 10th in Waterbury. The Conference also will serve as the mandatory CLG training. Matt stated that there are funds to pay for the HHPC members to attend and offered to register members for the conference.
8. 24 Maplewood Terrace: Matt Osborn reported that he was contacted by property owner Ryland Ianelli of 24 Maplewood Terrace regarding his residence and its historic significance. The building is close to the Fairview Terrace retaining wall that is planned for reconstruction. Some of the options involve removal of the building. Mr. Ianelli does not want to lose the building. Matt noted that the building was constructed c. 1895 and is a contributing property in the Terraces Historic District. Matt responded to the request for information. Pat Stark stated that she hopes that if the building is to be removed that it could be moved to another site instead of being demolished. The Commission agreed.
9. West Hartford Library: Robin Adair Logan reported that she has been in touch with Town Manager Patrick MacQueen and Parks and Recreation Department Director Tad Nunez regarding the leaks in the library roof and remedial action. Both have visited the library. Currently, there is only \$1,000 in the budget to fix the problem, which may not be enough. Robin Adair noted that there is no access to the rafter space. Also, the building doesn't have a ridge or soffit vents.
10. Quechee Community Church: Pat Stark reported that Peggy McDermott attended a workshop on church records. Peggy and Pat will be working with church member Lanni Collins about writing a church history for the Quechee Community Church. Pat also reported that a church congregation is interested in using the Quechee Community Church for their services.
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Matt Osborn noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th.
12. Adjournment: Roy Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robin Adair Logan and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.