

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

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 Meeting Room 2, Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. 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 September 21, 2016 HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of September 21st. Pat Stark noted a correction. Jonathan noted a correction. Roy Black made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 21st with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Robin Adair Logan and approved.
3. Advent Camp Meeting Grounds Historic District Nomination: Matt Osborn reported that he is waiting to hear from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation regarding notices to the Advent property owners before scheduling a meeting with the Hartford Selectboard regarding the historic district nomination. Jonathan Schechtman asked if the intent is to bring the nomination before the State Historic Preservation Advisory Committee for the January meeting. Matt responded yes.
4. Update of the White River Junction Historic District: Jonathan Schechtman asked why last month's interviews for the WRJ historic district were not included as part of the regular HHPC Meeting. Matt Osborn responded that the meeting is open to the public, whereas the interviews are not. Matt reported that since the meeting, he prepared a procurement memo to the Town Manager and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Both accepted the procurement process and selection of Architectural Historian Brian Knight for the project. Matt corresponded with Mr. Knight about the contract and necessary documents. Matt received the necessary documents and is submitting the package to the Finance Office for their approval. Once accepted, the project will get underway.
5. 2017 CLG Grant Project: Matt Osborn reported that the annual CLG grant application was distributed yesterday. It is due December 19th. Matt noted that last month, the HHPC had discussed the idea of a history/historic preservation brochure. He noted that he e-mailed Devin Colman of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation about the idea. Devin thinks it is a good project. Matt stated that in order to meet the 12/19 grant deadline and have enough time to establish a scope and budget and go before the Selectboard, the Commission will need to provide more details about the project. Matt also noted that there are several possible historic district nominations from the Historic Sites and Structures Survey that the HHPC could pursue. The consensus of the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission was to pursue history/historic preservation brochure. There was discussion about the target audience for the brochure, heritage

tourism or raising the consciousness of residents about the importance of historic preservation. Matt noted that for a while, the HHPC has been emphasizing the need to promote the importance of historic preservation. The Commission agreed. Jonathan Schechtman thought the project could have a printed and on-line element. It was agreed that the brochure could have information on the following:

- Town history
- Architecture
- Historic preservation
- Use-Reuse

Dennis Brown suggested teaming up with schools. Matt Osborn responded that working with schools to develop curriculum takes a lot of time, but can be effective. Robin Adair Logan liked the idea. It was agreed to look into it.

Jonathan Schechtman stated that his goal is for the brochure to help reduce demolition of historic buildings.

6. Historic New England Historic Homeowner Workshop: Matt Osborn reported that he was contacted by a staff member of Historic New England regarding a homeowner's workshop in White River Junction. Matt stated that he was very positive and he expects an e-mail outlining the date and location for the event. Jonathan Schechtman asked about the specifics of the workshop. Matt responded that he was not given the details.
7. Annual Historic Preservation Conference: Matt Osborn reported that the annual Historic Preservation/Downtown Conference will be taking place in Downtown White River Junction on Thursday, June 8th. He noted that Lori Hirshfield lobbied for the event to come here. Matt added that Lori is looking for volunteers to serve on the conference planning committee and hopes the HHPC will be involved. The Committee agreed that it is great to have the event in Hartford.
8. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th. Two members noted that they will be out of town and unable to attend. It was agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, November 22nd. Jonathan noted that he invited Hartford Chamber of Commerce Director P.J. Skehan to discuss how the HHPC could work with the Chamber. It was agreed to schedule a separate meeting with Mr. Skehan in the coming weeks.
9. 250th Anniversary Banners: Dennis Brown asked how much longer the 250th anniversary banners will remain since it is five years after the 250th anniversary. Susanne Walker Abetti responded that it would be ideal if the 250th banners were taken down at the time the banners are replaced with new banners. The Commission is unaware of any plans for replacement banners. Matt stated that he will discuss with Lori Hirshfield. Dennis Brown suggested discussing with Hartford Chamber Director P.J. Skehan.
10. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.