

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Draft 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: Monument Committee chair Mary Kay Brown and 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, February 19, 2020. 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 suggested adding the Preservation Trust of Vermont quarterly meeting and the Hartford Village Church. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the January 29th HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of January 29th. Roy Black noted a correction. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 29th with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved.
3. WWI Honor Roll Monument: Monument Committee chair Mary Kay Brown was present to discuss the WWI Honor Roll Monument. Mary Kay gave a powerpoint presentation of the on-going project. Mary Kay noted that the Honor Roll was fabricated in Lebanon and placed on the Town Hall property. Many other Upper Valley communities had Honor Rolls as well and several still stand. For some unknown reason, sometime in the 1970s, the Hartford Honor Roll was removed and placed in the Town Hall basement. It was moved to the Hartford Historical Society in 2014. Some of the pieces are missing. Originally, there were 284 names on the Honor Roll and all but ten remain. Mary Kay has sought estimates from foundries to restore and replace missing pieces and develop a hybrid. Cost estimates range from \$40,000-\$100,000. She noted that there is a committee of six working on the project and has hopes of getting a representative from the Legion and VFW. Jonathan Schechtman thanked Mary Kay for presenting information on the Honor Roll Monument.
4. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that Architectural Historian Brian Knight attended last month's HHPC meeting to report on the project. Brian has completed a great deal of research and recently completed a rough draft narrative. Pat Stark and Robin Adair Logan agreed to review the draft. Matt noted that a walking tour and a community meeting are planned for the spring. The Commission suggested scheduling the community meeting in April and the walking tour in May.
5. 2020 CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that he received notification that we received the CLG grant for the demolition ordinance. Although the full amount for hiring a consultant was awarded, funds for the annual historic preservation conference and the membership for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions were not funded since there were requests for more grant funds than were available. Matt stated that the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission has funds to cover the \$371 shortfall. Matt submitted the signed acceptance form today. The next step is for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation to draft the grant agreement. Matt stated that he expects to issue a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant in April.

6. Sykes Avenue Drive-In Sign: Dennis Brown noted that with the Roundabout Project, the drive-in sign will be removed from its present location. He noted that the Town purchased the property and is the owner of the sign. Dennis would like to see the sign relocated and continue to be used. Matt Osborn noted that the item will be on the 2/25 Selectboard Meeting agenda. Matt commented that the sign is in rough shape and may not survive the move. He also noted that the sign is a legal non-conforming sign and it would require a change in the sign ordinance to move it to a new site. The Commission sees community value in continuing use of the sign and that it is worth pursuing finding a new location. There was discussion about possible locations for the sign. Dennis stated that he will convey the opinion of the Commission about the sign to the Selectboard at the 2/25 meeting.
7. Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) Board Meeting: Matt Osborn reported that the PTV Board Meeting is scheduled for this evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Tucker Box Restaurant. It is part of their effort to get around and see the State. He noted that the Town Manager was invited to attend the meeting, but he had a conflict. Matt noted that if any of the HHPC members wanted to attend, they are welcome to head over.
8. Hartford Village Church: Matt Osborn reported that he was contacted by Peggy McDerment of the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ about repairs/restoration to the Church. The Church has been in contact of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and had a conditions assessment completed. They are planning roof work and are looking for recommendations regarding “preservation minded contractors”. Jonathan Schechtman suggested Jay Southgate of Steeple Jack who did work on the Quechee Church roof and steeple. It was also suggested that the Preservation Trust of Vermont should be able to recommend contractors.
9. Vermont Trivia Event: Pat Stark announced that a Vermont Trivia event is planned for Saturday, February 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at the Bugbee Senior Center.
10. SSN 792 Vermont Submarine: Dennis Brown reported that the VFW is sponsoring a bus trip to Groton, Connecticut on April 18th at 10:00 a.m. to visit the SSN 792 Vermont Submarine.
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th.
12. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roy Black and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.