

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present & Date their Term is Up: Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Dennis Brown and Selectboard Liaison Rocket.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Jonathan read the hybrid meeting script followed by a roll call.

- 1. Changes to the Agenda:** Jonathan asked if there are any changes to the agenda. There were none.
- 2. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 3. HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of February 15th. Susanne Walker Abetti noted a correction. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15th with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Susanne and approved.
- 4. Tigertown Road Railroad Crossing Section 106 Review:** Matt Osborn reported that the HHPC received a Section 106 Review request from the Federal Railroad Administration for railroad crossing improvements on Tigertown Road in West Hartford. The existing crossing has a signal but is ungated. The proposal is to gate the crossing and place a 6' x 6' signal bungalow nearby. Post construction, the crossing will look like the gated railroad crossing at Nutt Lane in White River Junction. The improvements are part of four requests in Vermont for railroad crossing improvements in proximity to historic districts. The Federal Railroad Administration determined that the project will have no adverse effect on the adjacent historic properties in the West Hartford Village Historic District. Matt noted that Vermont has many ungated railroad crossings and there are periodic trains/motor vehicle collisions. There was discussion. Pat made a motion that these are necessary safety improvements that will have no adverse effect on the West Hartford Village Historic District. Jonathan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Jonathan asked if the HHPC needs to submit a letter in response to the request. Matt stated that he will prepare a letter.
- 5. Hartford Performing Arts History Project:** Pat reported that she attended the Performing Arts History roundtable discussion with consultant Neil Silberman about memories of Hartford's performing arts. She said there were three participants and it was a very informative session with lots of details about the five granges in Hartford and the Lyric Theatre in White River Junction. Neil will be giving a presentation on the project this evening.

Matt reported that there is an April 1st deadline for a progress report for the CLG grant. He also reported that he will work with Neil Silberman on an amendment to the contract to add to the scope of work in order to spend out the entire grant award.

- 6. HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that there are two openings on the Commission.

7. Announcements:

- a. Engine 494 Presentation: Pat reported that David Briggs will be presenting about the history of Engine 494 at the Hartford Historical Society on April 12th.

8. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.