

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Draft Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susanne Walker Abetti, Robin Adair Logan and vice-chair Pat Stark.

Selectboard Liaison: Dennis Brown.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

A remote meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Vice-chair Pat Stark called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Matt Osborn proceeded to read the “Remote Public Meeting Script for Opening a Meeting” related to Act 92.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Pat Stark asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn suggested the Sugarhouse Project. The HHPC agreed.
2. Minutes of the February 17, 2021 HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of February 17th. Susanne Walker Abetti noted corrections. Robin Adair Logan made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 17th with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved.
3. Minutes of the March 10, 2021 HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of March 10th. There were none. Susanne Walker Abetti made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 10th as written. The motion was seconded by Robin Adair Logan and unanimously approved.
4. VA Cut-off Road Bridge: Matt Osborn reported that VTrans and the engineering consultant for the project made a presentation to the Hartford Selectboard last night about the proposed bridge replacement. The meeting was for information purposes only. The bridge will have a new alignment with the Christian Street intersection and will have a four-way stop. The HHPC preferred option that has concrete panels with a metal railing was presented although the design has not been finalized. Dennis Brown noted that according to the engineer, the Bridge Street Bridge has aluminum railings and has aged quite well. However, aluminum railings can't be used in new bridges since they do not meet crash test standards. Instead, galvanized steel that will be painted will be used. Dennis said his main concern is and well the bridge and railing materials will age. VTrans did not indicate when they will come back to the Town with more information on the final design. Matt stated that he will be in touch with a VTrans staff member to track the project.
5. Demolition Standards: Matt Osborn noted that the 4/19 joint workshop with the Planning Commission did not result in consensus on the best approach going forward with demolition standards. The next workshop is scheduled for Monday, May 10th and a community meeting to present demolition standards to the public is planned for June. There was discussion. It was agreed that the most important factor is to buy time in order to allow for photo documentation and consideration of options to demolition. Dennis Brown suggested that the HHPC needs to provide the Planning Commission with information on the benefits of demolition standards. The HHPC agreed to put together a memo to the Planning Commission.
6. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that he has been instructed from the Finance Department that we have to close out the grant and get reimbursed from the state by the end of May due to accounting reasons even though the grant agreement has a deadline of August 1st. Matt stated

that we need to schedule a walking tour and a community meeting. The HHPC recommended holding the walking tour on a Sunday afternoon instead of a Saturday morning. Pat noted that the Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 23rd. The community meeting will be scheduled for a weeknight. Matt will coordinate with consultant Brian Knight.

7. Vermont Sugarhouse Project: Pat Stark reported that there is a statewide initiative to document old sugarhouses with photographs. She thinks it is a great idea and mentioned several sugarhouses that she is aware of in Hartford. Dennis Brown added a few as well. The HHPC agreed to participate in the project. Susanne Walker Abetti suggested posting information about it on the Hartford List Serve. Pat agreed to coordinate with the Hartford Historical Society.
8. Announcements:
 - a. HHPC Opening: Dennis Brown asked if the opening on the HHPC has been advertised. Matt Osborn responded no and agreed to advertise it.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark reported that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19th.
10. Adjournment: Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susanne Walker Abetti seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.