

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, May 17, 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 Neil Silberman.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, May 17, 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. Hartford Performing Arts History (PAH) Project:** Consultant Neil Silberman was present to update the HHPC about the PAH project. Neil reported that the oral history portion of the project is winding down. He completed interviews with twelve individuals and is currently cleaning up the transcripts and videos. He noted that the oral history interviews only cover the period back to the 1950s. Neil stated that he continues to plug away on the draft report. He expects to have a draft completed in mid-June for the HHPC to review. Once the draft report is completed, Neil will begin work on the brochure. Matt reported that the addition of the brochure to the project scope of work required an amendment to the grant agreement with the State and a contract amendment with Neil. Both were approved by the Acting Town Manager and signed off by the Selectboard chair. The grant agreement amendment is waiting to be executed by the State.

Pat reported that the June 14<sup>th</sup> PAH community meeting conflicts with a Hartford Historical Society program. Matt responded that we would be competing for much of the same audience. Matt suggested rescheduling to following week or two. Susanne responded that Northern Stage has a new show premiering the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> and continues into July. She was hoping that Northern Stage might participate in PAH community meeting. She suggested pushing the community meeting date after Labor Day. It was agreed to reschedule to Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Matt noted that the contract with Coherit will have to be amended since the current completion date is 8/31. Matt left the meeting to talk to Planning Director Lori Hirshfield. Matt returned to the meeting and reported that Lori indicated that it should not be a problem.

- 3. HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Susanne Walker Abetti noted a correction. She made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 19<sup>th</sup> with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Pat Stark and unanimously approved.
- 4. VA Hospital Section 106 Review:** Matt reported that in 2017, a study conducted by an architectural historian determined that although the VA Hospital complex wasn't eligible for listing on the National Register, the Administration Building was eligible for individual listing. Matt looked up the VA Administrative Building on the Vermont on-line registry and did not find it listed. He contacted State Architectural Historian Devin Colman and is waiting for a response.

6. **2023 CLG Grant Application:** Matt reported that he plans to develop a Request for Proposals for the project in the coming weeks. Matt will email the draft RFP to the HHPC for their review.
7. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that there are two openings on the Commission. Matt reported that the Town Manager's office posted all commission openings on the List Serv this week. They plan to do this each month. Matt stated that the HHPC could post periodically as well. The Commission agreed.
8. **Announcements:**
  - a. Village Meet-Up in Strafford: Matt reported that the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development are sponsoring a day-long gathering in Strafford of Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> that "will focus on village revitalization, celebrating successes, identifying challenges, and exploring solutions." Matt noted that there is money in the budget to cover the \$25 registration fee. Susanne reported that she has already registered. Pat and Jonathan said they are not available.
  - b. World War I & II Monument: Dennis Brown reported that the Monument Committee received additional donations from Mascoma Bank and M&T Bank bringing their total fundraising to \$30,000 which is halfway to their fundraising goal.
  - c. Quechee Fells Barn Photo Documentation: Matt reported that Pat and he conducted a site visit with Quechee Lakes Landowner's Association (QLLA ) Property Manager Ken Lallier to photo document the barn addition that is being removed to make way for pickleball courts. An Architectural Historian determined that it was not historically significant and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation signed off on the demolition. Matt pointed out that he was pleased to learn that QLLA will be doing structural stabilization work on the barn as well as replacing the roof. Matt characterized it as a beautiful barn.
  - d. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Matt reported that the annual HCC Block Party is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 5:00-8:00 p.m. Matt asked the Commission if they wanted to have an information table for the event. Pat noted that the Hartford Historical Society will have a table and the HHPC could share the table with them. Jonathan thanked Pat.
  - e. Hartford Historical Society Book Sale: Pat reported that the Hartford Historical Society is sponsoring a book sale on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 a.m. to noon that includes many books from Roy Black's collection that were donated by Roy's wife Marianne.
9. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
10. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
11. **HHPC Member Terms:** Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).