

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 20, 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.

A hybrid meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 in Meeting Room 2 at the Hartford Town Hall. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. HHPC Minutes:** Jonathan asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of July 19th. Susanne Walker Abetti noted two corrections. Pat Stark made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 19th with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved.
- 3. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 4. Taft's Flat Historic District Nomination Proposal:** Matt reported that only one proposal was submitted but it was from Hartgen Archaeological Associates with Brian Knight as the principal. Brian has worked on several CLG projects in Hartford including the Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey. There was discussion. Matt noted that the proposal includes two historic district nominations including Demers Avenue as the first and either Victory Circle or Watson Plaza (Worcester Avenue) as the second. The HHPC went over their evaluations sheets and concluded that the proposal should be accepted. Pat made a motion to recommend to the Town Manager acceptance of the Hartgen Archaeological Associates proposal for the Taft's Flat Historic District nominations. The motion was seconded by Susanne and approved 3-0.
- 5. HHPC Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget:** Matt Osborn presented the approved HHPC budget for the current fiscal year. He noted that it will be a lean year and that a level funding is being recommended.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2023/2024 Budget</u>
Travel & Meetings	\$265
Advertising	\$300
Memberships (NAPC)	\$100
Materials and Supplies	\$400
<u>Grants & Appropriations</u>	<u>\$2,200</u>
Total	\$3,265

There was discussion. Dennis Brown noted that the Commission needs to maintain what we have. Susanne made a motion to propose level funding for the HHPC for FY2024/2025. Pat seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

- 6. Historic District Signs:** Matt reported that he contacted Boy Scout Leader Tim Schaal about the Boy Scouts undertaking maintenance of the historic district signs that are now more than ten years old and

experiencing paint peeling. Tim said the Boy Scouts might consider the project as a community service project for 2024. This year, they do not have the capacity to take on any additional projects. Tim requested information on the location of the signs which Matt provided. Jonathan suggested installing theft prevention hardware at the same time. Others agreed. Dennis suggested marking the back of the signs with "Property of the Town of Hartford". He volunteered to stencil the signs. The HHPC thanked Dennis for taking that on.

7. **WRJ Railroad Sign:** Matt reported that the Assistant Acting Town Manager asked Matt to inquire with the Hartford Historical Society about accepting the former White River Junction Train Station sign. Jonathan suggested mounting the sign somewhere in the Town Hall. Others agreed. Susanne suggested including a small plaque explaining the origin of the sign. Others agreed. Pat agreed to research the date of the sign. Pat made a motion to request permission to mount the WRJ sign somewhere in the Town Hall and include a plaque with the description of the sign's history. Susanne seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Matt will follow up.
8. **West Hartford Church:** Matt distributed photographs of the Church from 2012. He noted that the property is being taxed since church services are no longer held at the Church. He stated that there are many challenges since the lot is small, doesn't have a well, septic system nor much parking. Matt agreed to contact the Preservation Trust of Vermont to get their thoughts on restoration and future uses. The HHPC agreed. Matt will follow up.
9. **2024 CLG Grant Project:** Matt reported that the annual CLG grant application is due December 11th. He said we need to come up with a project for the grant. He suggested continuing with additional National Register Nominations for Taft's Flad neighborhoods or updating the Quechee Mill, Hartford Village or Wilder Village historic district nominations. Susanne suggested the West Hartford Church. Matt suggested getting feedback from State Architectural Historian Devin Colman. Matt will follow up.
10. **World War 1 & II Monument:** Dennis reported that the Monument received a Better Places Grant and also received a donation from the White River Junction Legion. He stated that local civil engineer Tim Schaal is assisting on the project and they are currently working with the Monument maker to select a location at Veterans Park for the monument. A grand opening is being planned for Memorial Day 2024.
11. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that there are two openings on the Commission.
12. **Announcements:**
 - a. New CLG Community: Matt reported that the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation announced that Woodstock was recently approved as the 19th CLG in Vermont.
13. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th at 5:00 p.m.
14. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
15. **HHPC Member Terms:** Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).