

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, October 18, 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, October 18, 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 September 20<sup>th</sup>. Pat Stark noted a correction. Susanne Walker Abetti noted three corrections. Susanne made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 20<sup>th</sup> with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Pat and unanimously approved.
- 3. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
- 4. CLG Four-year Review:** Matt Osborn reported that on September 28<sup>th</sup>, he had a meeting with State Architectural Historian Devin Colman regarding the four-year CLG review. Matt stated that it went well. He noted that he has regularly sought assistance from Devin and he is always responsive and helpful. Matt stated that the most significant item that came out of the meeting was to make sure all of the HHPC materials are available to the public on the Town website. Matt noted that the Town just updated the website and the Department of Planning and Development Department will have a new administrative assistant next month who has extensive website development experience. He plans to have everything up on the website in early 2024.
- 5. Hartford Performing Arts History (PAH) Project:** Matt Osborn reported that he read the draft PAH Report and was very impressed with the results of consultant Neil Silberman's research and writing. He thinks the Report will be very useful. Others agreed. Matt will make copies available to Hartford schools and libraries. Jonathan, Pat and Susanne read the report and agreed that it was extremely well researched and written.

The HHPC reviewed the draft brochure. Matt noted that his name should not be listed on the brochure. He also thought that the Department of Planning and Development should be listed for further information. The HHPC agreed. Jonathan stated that the symbols should be smaller. Others agreed. Dennis Brown stated that it would be nice if there was a QR code on the brochure that you could click for more information.

- 6. Taft's Flat Historic District Nomination:** Matt reported that a draft contract was prepared and submitted to the consultant, Hartgen Archaeological Associates (Hartgen) for their review. Hartgen reviewed the draft contract and indicated that they will sign it. The next step is for the Selectboard chair to sign the contract and send to Hartgen. Once signed, Hartgen will be able to start work on the project. Matt noted that he submitted a procurement memo to the Town Manager, Finance Director and CLG Program Coordinator Devin Colman.

7. **2024 CLG Grant Project:** Matt reported that since the West Hartford Church owes nearly \$20,000 in back taxes, it is uncertain whether the Town would allow the HHPC to use Town funds for the local match for a CLG grant at this time. Dennis suggested that the West Hartford Meeting House Corporation consider seeking an abatement of property taxes. Given that the West Hartford Church situation is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon, Matt suggested looking at other possible grant projects. He noted that the CLG grant application deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup> and needs to go before the Selectboard for approval. Dennis suggested compiling a history of Hartford schools. Susanne suggested conducting a history of Hartford churches. Matt suggested getting feedback from State Architectural Historian Devin Colman. Matt will follow up. An update of the Quechee Historic Mill District was also discussed. Matt noted that the next regular HHPC meeting is November 15<sup>th</sup>. We may have to schedule a special meeting to formally decide on the application. The HHPC agreed.
8. **World War 1 & II Monument:** Dennis reported that with the award of the Better Places Grant along with other grants and donations, the project is in good financial shape. Dennis noted that the monument fabrication is being done in Woburn, Massachusetts. On-site excavation and concrete work will be done in the next two weeks. A grand opening is being planned for Memorial Day 2024.
9. **HHPC Openings:** Jonathan noted that there are two openings on the Commission. Dennis indicated that he is interested in applying.
10. **Announcements:**
  - a. Hartford History: Pat reported that the Hartford School District contacted the Hartford Historical Society about providing history talks for the Hartford schools. Pat noted that the Historical Society could use a few volunteers.
11. **Next HHPC Meeting:** Jonathan noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
12. **Adjournment:** Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susanne and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.
13. **HHPC Member Terms:** Susanne Walker Abetti (3/21/25), Vice-chair Pat Stark (3/7/25) and Chair Jonathan Schechtman (1/9/26).