

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pat Stark and Chair Jonathan Schechtman.

Selectboard Liaison: Dennis Brown.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. The meeting was also accessible remotely via Microsoft Teams with one member attending remotely. Jonathan read the hybrid meeting script recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and followed with the roll call.

1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. Minutes of the September 15, 2021 HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that since there is not a quorum, we will hold off on action regarding the minutes of September 15th.
3. HHPC Budget: Matt Osborn reported that Planning Department Director Lori Hirshfield went along with the HHPC recommendation for level funding for the HHPC budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 which was presented to the Selectboard on October 12th. Matt also reported that he spoke to Lori about the HHPC request to return excess funds from the 2020 CLG grant to the HHPC account. He will follow-up with a formal request to the Town Manager.
4. Taft's Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that he heard back from consultant Brian Knight about his availability for a community meeting on the Taft's Flat project. Brian is available Wednesday, November 10th. Matt asked if the date works for the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission and what time to schedule it. The HHPC agreed to the date and prefers 6:30 p.m. Matt noted that the meeting is planned to be a remote meeting due to Covid, but he will inquire whether we have to provide an in-person option.

Regarding promotion for the meeting, Matt stated that he will make a flyer for the meeting, post on the town website, Hartford List Serve, Parks and Recreation Department weekly e-mail and mail to the Taft's Flat neighborhood. He asked the HHPC if we should pay for a transaction ad in the Valley News which would likely run about \$90. The HHPC agreed. Pat Stark suggested promoting the meeting by utilizing the Town electronic message board at the Town Hall.

5. Demolition Delay Standards: Jonathan Schechtman reported that the second community meeting for the demolition standards CLG grant was held on October 5th with the Selectboard. He noted that the Selectboard seemed to be supportive of the proposed draft demolition delay standards and there was no public opposition. Matt noted that the next step is to figure out when to proceed with the adoption process. He will coordinate with Planning Director Lori Hirshfield.
6. 2022 CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that CLG grant applications are due on December 6th. He asked if the HHPC would like to try again for funding to do research on Hartford's performing arts history with an oral history component. Matt noted that with more CLG communities in Vermont, funding is now more competitive. He added that the feedback that we received from the Vermont Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation earlier this year was that we needed more detail about

the types of performance spaces that were/are in the Town, how these spaces will be documented and some examples of the people to be interviewed about this aspect of local history. Matt noted that he could use some assistance with the research for the grant application. Pat Stark volunteered. There was discussion about some of the venues including:

- Briggs Opera House
- Lyric Theater
- Quechee Meetinghouse
- West Hartford Grange
- Wilder Club
- Churches

It was agreed that we should proceed with the project if there is sufficient detail for a more competitive application. As a back-up project, an update of historic district nominations from the 1990s, such as Wilder Village, Hartford Village or Quechee Village was suggested as well as a Taft's Flat historic district nomination.

7. HHPC Opening: Jonathan Schechtman reported that he spoke with a person that he thinks would be a suitable candidate for the HHPC and invited her to apply.
8. Announcements:
 - a. Holiday Inn: Dennis Brown reported that he spoke with former Holiday Inn owner Paul Whitney. Dennis noted that the Holiday Inn was unusual in that it was a building that was demolished and not destroyed by fire or other act of nature. He is seeking photographs of the building.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC meeting is scheduled for November 17th.
10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.