

# HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

## Draft Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Susanne Walker Abetti, Robin Adair Logan and chair Jonathan Schechtman.

**Staff Present:** Town Planner Matt Osborn.

**Others Present:** Planning Commission member Dennis Brown.

A remote meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. He proceeded to read the “Remote Public Meeting Script for Opening a Meeting” related to Act 92.

1. Minutes of the September 16, 2020 HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Susanne Walker Abetti pointed out a couple of corrections. Robin Adair Logan made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup> with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Susanne and approved.
2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn suggested adding the 2021 CLG Grant Application. The HHPC agreed.
3. HHPC Bylaws: Matt Osborn noted that the current bylaws limit the number of members to five. Robin Adair Logan noted that she would like to increase the number of members in order to create a position for Dennis Brown. Matt said that typically boards and commissions usually have an odd number of positions to avoid tie votes. As a result, we would probably want to increase the number from 5 to 7 members. He noted that not too long ago, the HHPC had difficulty filling open positions. Matt reported that he contacted CLG Coordinator and State Architectural Historian Devin Colman. Devin responded that the bylaws “would have to be adopted locally, and then it may have to be submitted to NPS for final review and approval.” He asked if there is long-term capacity to maintain a seven-member commission. He cautioned about making a long-term change to accommodate one person for the short-term. It was agreed to continue discussion at next month’s meeting.
4. Taft’s Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that Jonathan Schechtman provided comments on the revised draft report. Susanne Walker Abetti noted that she finished reviewing the revised draft report and will get the comments to Matt.
5. Parker House Renovation: Matt Osborn reported that Simon Pearce Chief Executive Officer Jay Benson provided the following update about the project on Monday.

“A lot of activity is still going on. We are working hard to finish the exterior of the building, primarily the landscaping between the Parker House and Barbara West's real estate office, an accessible ramp/entrance and the expansion of the porch. We've also completed the painting of the old Tinkham store.”

Matt also noted that Jay reported that they ran into significant building issues with the antique store across the street and are currently considering their options. Matt noted that Jay did not specify the nature of the issues. The HHPC suggested that Matt inquire. Robin Adair Logan noted that although the antique section of the building is not historic, it does contribute to the village character entering the village from the east. The HHPC agreed.

6. Demolition Standards RFP: Matt Osborn reported that the deadline for the demolition standards proposals is Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Matt stated that he will hand deliver the proposals to the HHPC members that afternoon. He requested that the HHPC complete their review of the proposals by Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> so that interviews can be scheduled later that week based on the RFP schedule. The HHPC agreed.
7. 2021 CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that the 2021 CLG grant application is due December 7<sup>th</sup>. The HHPC will need to select a project at the November 18<sup>th</sup> and go before the Selectboard prior to submitting the application. Matt noted that he contacted consultant Brian Knight about moving forward with a historic district nomination for Taft's Flat prior to the completion of the Intensive Level Survey. Brian did not think it would be a problem. He noted that Victory Circle, Demers Avenue and Worcester Avenue are the stronger candidates for a nomination with Victory Circle having "the most compelling story". The nominations would not be submitted together. Brian suggested discussing with State Architectural Historian Devin Colman. Matt agreed to contact Devin. He asked the HHPC if they have any other projects in mind. Susanne Walker Abetti responded that White River Junction and Hartford has a rich entertainment history. She suggested a project documenting its history. The HHPC liked the idea. Matt agreed to contact Devin to get his thoughts. It was agreed to think about projects and be prepared to make a decision at the November 18<sup>th</sup> HHPC meeting.
8. Announcements: There were no announcements.
9. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman reported that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.
10. Adjournment: Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Susanne Walker Abetti and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.