

# HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

## Approved Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Susanne Walker Abetti, Robin Adair Logan and Vice-chair Pat Stark.

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

**Others Present:** Selectboard Liaison Alicia Barrow and 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, December 16, 2020. Vice-chair Pat Stark called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Town Planner Matt Osborn read the “Remote Public Meeting Script for Opening a Meeting” related to Act 92. Matt noted that he has a 6:00 p.m. meeting and that he will have to leave at 5:55 p.m. The HHPC agreed to stay on track and finish by 5:55 p.m. Matt welcomed Selectboard Liaison Alicia Barrow to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the November 18, 2020 HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark asked if there are any corrections to the Minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup>. Susanne Walker Abetti noted a correction. Robin Adair Logan made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup> with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved.
2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Pat Stark asked if there are any additions to the agenda. There were none.
3. 2021 CLG Grant Application: Matt Osborn reported that he went before the Selectboard on December 1<sup>st</sup> and they approved the HHPC request to submit an application for the 2021 CLG grant to do research and prepare a study/report on the history of performing arts in Hartford and include an oral history component. Matt submitted the application on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The grants will be awarded in late January.
4. Demolition Standards RFP: Matt Osborn reported that although only one proposal was submitted, the consultant has extensive experience with drafting bylaws and facilitating community meetings and has design review experience. Brandy Saxton of Place Sense worked for five years at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission before establishing her consulting practice in 2005. She has worked with communities of all sizes in Vermont and recently worked on bylaw revisions that included demolition standards in Brattleboro, Barre and Montpelier. She also updated the design guidelines for Shelburne, another CLG community. Matt noted that Brandy worked for Hartford as the consultant hired to work on the Hartford growth center application about ten years ago. Matt stated that Brandy did an excellent job on the application that resulted in the State granting Growth Center designation.

Robin Adair Logan stated that in her eleven years on the HHPC, Brandy is the single-most qualified consultant. She submitted a very clear proposal and highly recommends hiring her. Pat Stark agreed and stated that it is a well-written proposal. Susanne Walker Abetti also agreed. Robin Adair noted Shelburne has very well-written standards. Robin Adair made a motion to accept the Place Sense proposal. The motion was seconded by Susanne and unanimously approved. Robin Adair asked Matt if he would like the HHPC to submit their evaluation sheets. Matt responded yes. He also requested that HHPC members inform him of their time spent reviewing the application. Matt will check Brandy’s references.

5. Taft’s Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that the National Park Service extended the time to complete the CLG grant project to next summer due to Covid-19 with the hope that we could

sponsor an in-person walking tour and community meetings by late spring/early summer. Since that is still uncertain, Lori Hirshfield suggested looking at a Plan B. It was agreed to continue working toward the goal of in-person events and to re-evaluate the Covid situation late winter/early spring. As a Plan B, a remote walking tour and community meeting will be held.

6. White River Junction Sign: Matt Osborn reported that Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler contacted him about an approximate 2' x 8' sign with the words "White River Junction" that Scott found in the Railroad Station. It appears that it may have been an outside sign. Scott was interested in what the HHPC thought about what should be done with the sign. Pat Stark thought the sign might fit at a business in Downtown White River Junction. Robin Adair Logan suggested a location inside the Town Hall. The HHPC agreed to recommend placing the sign in the Town Hall. Matt will make the request.
7. 3210 Jericho Street: Robin Adair Logan reported that she hasn't been able to meet with Steve Sass yet. Matt Osborn noted that Steve purchased 3210 Jericho Street, one of the oldest buildings in the Jericho Rural Historic District and is planning to restore it and move it from its present location to the south while remaining on the one-acre lot.
8. Simon Pearce Quechee Main Street Properties: Matt Osborn reported that the Parker House is located within the Quechee Lakes Landowners Association and therefore must go through Act 250 review process for the work on the building. Simon Pearce Chief Executive Officer Jay Benson noted that due to Covid, they plan to open the restaurant in the spring. Jay gave the following update:
  - The porch is almost complete: New siding, trim, code compliant railings, fir flooring, and roof repair.
  - The outside wall facing the Mill is complete. We replaced 4 large vinyl windows with replica wood paneling and windows. (I attached a picture from last month that shows this space 90% complete)
  - Waiting on railings for the new stairs and ramp.

Robin Adair Logan stated that the work on the Parker House is truly lovely. The Commission agreed.

9. HHPC 2021 Meeting Schedule: Matt Osborn presented the 2021 HHPC meeting schedule. The Commission accepted the meeting schedule
10. Announcements:
  - a. CLG Communities in Vermont: Matt Osborn reported that St. Albans became the seventeen CLG community in Vermont.
  - b. HHPC Annual Report: Matt Osborn reported that the HHPC Annual Report is due. He reminded the HHPC to get comments to him by Friday. The HHPC agreed.
  - c. "Why Old Places Matter" by Tom Mayes: Robin Adair Logan recommended that the HHPC and the Selectboard watch the video and reading the book "Why Old Places Matter".
11. Next HHPC Meeting: Pat Stark reported that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.
12. Adjournment: Robin Adair Logan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Susanne Walker Abetti and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.