

Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Subject to review and approval
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM
via Zoom Video Conference

Commission Members Present: Eric Gilbertson (Chair), Robert McCullough (Vice Chair), Paul Carnahan, and Linden Chozinska,

Members Absent: Bryan Jones

Others Present: Meredith Crandall (Administration); Dawn Angney-Kress and Brian Gallagher representing the Vermont Mountaineers.

1. Call to Order: 7:04 PM by Bob as Vice Chair. He ran the meeting as Eric was sick.
2. Approval of the Agenda. Approved unanimously with revision of schedule to consider the Vermont Mountaineers project first.
3. Comments from the Chair: None
4. Vermont Mountaineers Project. DOE for Montpelier Recreation Field has been submitted to VTSHPO with a finding of eligibility under Criteria A for the Recreation Field and its various features for themes of social history, park planning and recreation/entertainment, and under Criteria C for the grandstand as an architectural type. With concurrence from VTSHPO, DOE and a Section 106 letter should be sent to Niels Rinehart, 272-4156 at VT Forest Parks and Recreation, who will then forward the package to the National Park Service. Currently waiting for a response from Elizabeth Peebles.
5. Antenna Alterations on City Center. New antennae heights will be about 53 feet; a little taller than antennae currently in place. Commission reviewed full plans courtesy of Meredith, and the difference in height is minimal. Antennae are not prominent, if visible at all from the street, and do not block views of other buildings in the district. Eric moved that Meredith prepare a letter of no effect in consultation with Eric and Bob. Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Bailey Dam Removal Project. City's packet of information is roughly complete regarding the information to be submitted as part of the grant application. Packet doesn't include much history about the New Deal project, but committee's consensus is that the dam has been altered to the point that it has lost its integrity, is no longer historically significant, and thus is not eligible for the National Register. Ultimately, removal of the dam will reduce potential damage from flooding and is thus beneficial to the historic district.
7. Footnote Regarding Montpelier Recreation Field Project. Most of the delay in submitting the DOE was the result of the inability of the Vermont Mountaineers to reach an agreement with a preservation consultant rather than a slow response by VDHP. Work by HPC was justified because the project is also a city project.

8. Election of HPC Officers. Motion to move election of HPC officers to February meeting approved unanimously.

9. Review and Approve Minutes: 12/19/2025. Bob moved to delay approval of minutes to the February meeting. Seconded by Eric. Approved unanimously.

10. Elm Street Church. Commission would like to meet with project developers informally to explain the opportunities to make this a good demonstration of façade preservation and to encourage the developers to make the necessary investment. Meredith will reach out to the developer.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

12. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:50 P.M.