

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

Members: Eric Gilbertson (Chair), James Duggan (Vice Chair), Jenna Lapachinski, Robert McCullough, Joe Strain.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Comments from the Chair
5. Review and Approve Minutes: 10-15-2019 and 12-10-2019
6. Cont. Work Session: Historic Preservation Chapter of City Master Plan:
 - a) Review of latest draft (circulated by Staff 1/7/2020), discussion of priorities
 - b) Move back to Planning Commission?
7. Barre Street Recreation Center Renovations
 - a) Discussion following 1/7/2020 public meeting/forum; and Chair, Vice Chair, and Staff's meeting with City personnel and architect on 1/13/2020
8. Discussion of Suggested New Demolition Provision

- a) Overview by Member McCullough (drafter)

9. Other Business

- a) Update on Montpelier Streetscape Master Plan: Public meeting, Thursday, December 12th, 6:00 pm at City Hall.
- b) Next Regular Meeting Date - *Staff to Advise pending search for alternative dates/times* (typically 2nd Tuesday of each month)

10. Adjournment

Meetings are open to the public. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations please call (802) 223-9506.

Historic Preservation Commission SPECIAL Meeting Minutes

Subject to review and approval

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 6:30 PM
Council Chambers- City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Commission Members Present: Eric Gilbertson (Chair), Bob McCullough, Jamie Duggan (Vice Chair), and Sally Smith

Commission Members Absent: Joe Strain

Others Present: Meredith Crandall (staff)

Call to Order

Chair Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

No public comments.

Approval of the Agenda: Bob moved to approve the agenda, Sally seconded. The agenda was adopted as written on a 4-0 vote.

Comments from the Chair: None.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Approval of 8/13/19 minutes moved to next meeting, as no quorum from the meeting date present.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Draft Design Review Regulations

- A. Members discussed revisions proposed by the Planning Commission, and largely agreed with the changes. However, members suggested further changes to push back on some suggestions regarding: (i) changes over time having historic significance; (ii) whether changes to historic buildings should be compatible with both the building itself and nearby properties; (iii) how changes related to energy efficiency measures should be dealt with; and (iv) the definition of historic buildings.
- B. Sally made a motion to move the further revised regulations back to the Planning Commission for action; Bob seconded the motion. The Motion was approved, 4-0.
- C. Eric and Jamie indicated that they would attend the October 28th Planning Commission meeting for discussion of the draft regulations.

2. Continued Work Session: HPC Montpelier Master Plan Chapter

- A. Sally reported that the two major points of discussion at the September 25th Charette she attended with the City's consultant, SE Group, were: (i) creation of more pocket parks and

other features to reduce the linearity and straight line traffic downtown; and (ii) creation of street side and riverfront pocket parks. Discussion included commentary that experiments with design can accumulate clutter that detracts from the fairly simple cross-roads structures of the City. "Less is more." That changes should not damage existing buildings. That any changes need to balance: (a) the linear travel function; (b) the historic patterns of street development; and (c) the buildings themselves.

- B. Members agreed that staff should forward this comment on to Mike Miller and Kevin Casey. Members agreed that the HPC will provide further input, once SE Group has created some draft plans.

Other Business

- A. Staff shared the Planning Commission's draft revisions to the Design Review Overlay District Map. Commission members agreed that it would be worth attending the Planning Commission meetings when these changes are discussed. Eric suggested trying to get Cliff Street back into the Overlay District.
- B. Bob will circulate draft demolition provisions soon. He noted that he's considering creating a standard sub-committee that would meet with Applicants to create a demolition plan prior to that plan going before the Design Review or Development Review Board.
- C. Staff asked about information on the State's GIS system that shows historic districts separate from the federally listed area. Jamie and Eric explained that the federal historic district is not allowed to get any larger, but that additional districts have been listed with the State of Vermont. A goal for the future is to conduct additional surveys, and create new federal historic districts in these areas. For now, however, they are listed with the State Register.
- D. Staff to circulate CLG grant email and information. Commission members should start considering what projects could use the CLG funding.

Next Regular Meeting Date – 11/12/2019.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Subject to review and approval

Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 6:30 PM
Manager's Conference Room-City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Commission Members Present: Eric Gilbertson (Chair), Jamie Duggan (Vice Chair), and Joe Strain (arriving at 7pm)

Commission Members Absent: Bob McCullough and Sally Smith

Others Present: Meredith Crandall (staff)

Call to Order

Chair Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 7 pm (late start awaiting quorum)

No public comments.

Approval of the Agenda: Joe moved to approve the agenda, Jamie seconded. The agenda was adopted as written on a 3-0 vote.

Comments from the Chair: Eric expressed a desire to get additional members, if possible, and asked members to consider who might make good candidates.

Review and Approval of Minutes

- Jamie moved the 8/13/19 minutes for approval, Joe seconded, and the minutes were approved as written on a 3-0 vote.
- Approval of 10/15/19 minutes moved to next meeting, as no quorum from the meeting date present.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Staff Update and Continued Work Session: HPC Montpelier Master Plan Chapter

- A. Staff summarized most recent Planning Commission and Planning Director comments on the draft Chapter, including that the Planning Commission would like HPC to prioritize the listed strategies, and add cost and staffing notes.
- B. Members agreed that identifying and surveying districts and properties are the priority for the Commission, and that the Meadow and College Street districts should be the #1 district priorities.
- C. Members also discussed and clarified what was meant by historically significant areas, and the need to incorporate such into state and national register listings, as well as local planning.
- D. Staff will revise the Chapter and circulate for review prior to the next meeting.

2. Barre Street Recreation Center Renovations

- a. Eric and Jamie questioned:
 - i. Whether the Rec Center plans had considered engineering/preservation issues with settling to the rear of the building?
 - ii. Why the interior fireplace was being removed given its historic nature?
 - iii. Whether the basement, and especially gun range, paint had been tested for PCBs and lead?
 - iv. Whether there were plans to document the range for historic records?
- b. After further discussion, decision was made for Staff to arrange meeting between Chair Ericson, Vice Chair Duggan, and the City personnel and architect involved with the project.

Other Business

- A. Members discussed possible attendance at the December 12th meeting on the Streetscape Master Plan.
- B. Members agreed to refrain from applying for a CLG grant this month, and to focus on planning. However, Staff was directed to be prepared to file an application for surveying the Meadow Neighborhood should a second grant application round be announced.
- C. Staff to confer with Member McCullough to confirm whether the regular meeting times will conflict with the 2020 class schedule.

Next Regular Meeting Date – 1/14/2020.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm (motion by Jamie, second by Joe)