

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
VIA REMOTE CONNECTION
6:00 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Approved March 2, 2021

Board Members Present: Laz Scangas, Chair; Richard Stahl, Vice-Chair; Alex Lehning; Stan Bradeen; Joe Luneau; Lisamarie Charlesworth; Barbara Weinstein.

Staff members Present: Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning and Development; Wendy Coy, Minute Taker

Public Present: Jordan Weinstein

AGENDA

- 1. Open Meeting. Chair Laz Scangas opened the meeting at 6:04 PM.**
 - a. Introduction of attendees.
 - b. Public Comment on issues not on agenda. None.
 - c. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda. None.

- 2. Approval of Minutes - Vice-Chair Stahl made a motion to accept the minutes of December 01, 2020 as amended. Member Weinstein seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

- 3. Review of grant application for historic register update –** The City received \$18,000 for what might be a \$30,000 project. This grant is for the update of historic districts in the City. There are two main issues. A format update and a consultant to help with the historic district and to possibly recommend boundary changes. The City will cover the remainder of the cost of the project as it is part of the Congress Street project. The grant should be executed in March. The RFP would be issued in April and a consultant hired by May 2021. The project should be done by May 2022. The Commission would like to do a walking tour with the consultant as soon as possible once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. The physical walking tour also has the ability to get the public interested in the project. Chair Scangas made it clear that the Commission would be very hands on during the duration of this project. He asked to see a draft of the RFP as soon as possible so that the Commission could be finished their review and edits before the grant was approved in March. The RFP could go out as soon as the State certified the grant. Mr. Sawyer asked if the Commission wanted to meet as soon as the RFP was released. The Commission felt that most of the work could be done through email.

- 4. Discuss future projects –** Mr. Sawyer discussed getting a grant application ready for

the next round. The application would be due in December. Chair Scangas asked if a municipality could receive two grants at once. Member Luneau stated that they could but that it didn't happen often. One of the applications might be in jeopardy. During the last round, there wasn't enough money to fund all grant requests. Member Weinstein stated that when she reviewed the grant application it stated education and information as a main priority. The Commission could look at funding the educational materials mentioned in the last meeting with the next grant. She mentioned that there used to be a printed walking tour of the City for people to use. Member Charlesworth stated that perhaps an update of the walking tour to include a social media app would be a good idea. Sawyer opined that it would be good to get the historic district updates in place before the walking tour is updated.

Member Bradeen stated that the City's Planning Commission would be interested in hearing from the HPC as the Commission is currently working on rezoning districts in the City and the historic district work would help that Commission with their deliberations. It was decided that after the presentation of the RFP at the next meeting, Member Bradeen would do a review of the Planning Commission's work. Member Weinstein informed the Commission that Bellows Falls used to have a program where homeowners could meet with exterior color consultants to get a palette of colors that were historically accurate in their district and for their home. She volunteered to call down there and find out what the City's experience with the program was. It was suggested that she ask about other historic programs the Bellows Falls has used. She agreed and stated she would tell the Commission what she found out.

- 5. Discuss meeting schedule** – Mr. Sawyer stated that the Commission needed to meet four times a year. The Commission agreed to meet on March 2nd, June 1st, September 7th and December 7th.
- 6. Other business** – Mr. Jordan Weinstein talked about the Bellows Falls historical color expert. It was inexpensive for the municipality to sponsor as it required just a couple of hours of the consultant's time. People would make selections based on the historical time period of their house. It was considered part of the renaissance of the area at that time. It was also part of the arts community finding a home there.
- 7. Adjourn - Member Luneau made a motion to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Member Bradeen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**