



State of Vermont
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1 National Life Drive, Davis Building, Floor 6
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

DRAFT Minutes
Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
July 24, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Microsoft Teams Meetings

Council Participants: Edward Clark, Chair/Citizen Member
Paul Wyncoop, Vice Chair/Citizen Member
David Skinas, Archaeologist
Britta Tonn, Architectural Historian
Joseph Luneau, Citizen Member
Paul Carnahan, Historian
Ann Vivian, Architect

Absent Council Members: Paul Wyncoop, Vice Chair/Citizen Member

Staff Participants: Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer
Lindsay Pacheco, Administrative Services Coordinator
Elizabeth Peebles, State Architectural Historian
Jess Robinson, State Archaeologist
Josh Bell, Director of State Historic Sites
Jamie Duggan, Director of Preservation
Josie Talerma, Historic Sites Maintenance Technician
Elisabeth Brown, Architectural Historian Intern

Public Participants: Jess Phelps, Norwich Historic Preservation Commission Chair
Susan Voake, Norwich Historic Preservation Commission
Brian Knight, Historic Preservation Consultant

Meeting was recorded.
Edward Clark opened the meeting at 9:02am.

I. Welcome

II. Changes to the Agenda

Jess Robinson will be presenting only on Mount Independence and offering update on archaeological testing done there.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Approval of Minutes



a. June 19, 2025

Joe Luneau made a motion to approve June 19, 2025 minutes. David Skinas seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0; Roll call vote

Mr. Luneau: Yes

Mr. Skinas: Yes

Ms. Tonn: Yes

Ms. Vivian: Yes

Mr. Wyncoop: Absent

Mr. Carnahan: Yes

Mr. Clark: Yes

V. National Register of Historic Places

a. Jones Circle Historic District, Norwich, Windsor County

Elizabeth Peebles presented the Jones Circle Historic District nomination in Norwich for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This is a new nomination initiated by the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission, researched and written by Brian Knight.

Period of significance is 1958-1961, recommending listing under Criteria A and C, with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as areas of significance. Listing under the *Historic Residential Suburbs in the United States, 1830-1960* MPD.

Paul Carnahan made a motion that the Jones Circle Historic District in Norwich meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination. Joe Luneau seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-1; Roll call vote

Mr. Luneau: Yes

Mr. Skinas: No

Ms. Tonn: Yes

Ms. Vivian: Yes

Mr. Wyncoop: Absent

Mr. Carnahan: Yes

Mr. Clark: Yes

VI. State Archaeological Landmarks

Jess Robinson, State Archaeologist, presented on the new State Archaeological Landmark designation at Mount Independence and an overview of archaeological research at the site. The designation was done in partnership with Fort Ticonderoga Association, which owns the northern portion of Mount Independence. Notices were sent to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for Chimney Point and Hubbardton; still confirming boundaries before moving forward.



Beginning in 2016, Western Sites Administrator Elsa Gilbertson and Jess applied for an American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant, which allowed them to compile existing geospatial data and employ advanced technologies for the purposes of long-term curation and interpretation of Mount Independence as a battlefield and significant archaeological resource. In 2021, another ABPP grant allowed for GIS mapping and database merging, with the goal to georeference excavation units in real space across the property.

By designating a site as a Vermont Archeological Landmark, this offers additional protections such as excluding metal detectors and public field activities without a permit. This is the second archaeological landmark, the first of which being the state-owned land on Monument Road which includes several Native American burials.

VII. Bennington Battle Monument

Jamie Duggan, Director of Preservation, presented an update on the study of the conditions and rehabilitation work necessary at the Bennington Battle Monument. Articles as early as 1910 note that the Monument was damp, and cracking started appearing in the 1920s. The Bennington Battle Monument Association was in charge of maintaining the Monument until given over to the State of Vermont in 1953. Stone shedding started in the mid-1950s, with spot repairs and repointing occurring over the decades, however mortar and stone issues persisted while the areas of repair decreased.

In 2018, VDHP realized moisture had totally permeated the stone and studying was needed to determine what was creating these damp conditions. Two phases of study occurred from 2022-2024 to survey and study the entire Monument, which included 3-D laser scanning, elevator explorations, and petrography testing. Vertical Access, a professional rappel team, has repeatedly rappelled down the Monument on all four sides and taking photographs and notes cracks and other problem areas identified from laser scan.

The studies determined that the Monument is still structurally stable, and not in danger of sloughing off stone or falling over; the building has over 100% humidity; and drying out the stone, interior and exterior, is a priority over any repairs. It is estimated that 66,000 gallons of water are being held by the stone in the Monument. Next steps will be to create scaffolding around the Monument and cover it in waterproof scrim. VDHP continues to explore funding and plans from drying out the Monument, monitoring the humidity and cracking, to ensuring safety measures are in place for continued visitation.

VIII. SHPO Report

- a. The Federal FY25 funding for the Historic Preservation Fund was released for application, totaling \$693,000 for the Vermont SHPO. This funding is matched by the State of Vermont at 40% and pays for 11 staff members both full and part time, as well as providing the Certified Local Government program grants. The funding for FFY26 was not funded for SHPOs and THPOs, however the House committee has added this back in at level funding.
- b. Capital Bill money was released this week for State FY26.



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- c. With all flood related demolitions happening across the state, SHPO is working alongside FEMA and Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to satisfy mitigation via a mapping tool. For properties State Register Historic Districts, the application will allow a summary of the designation when clicking on the property in a map. FEMA will contribute \$48,000, SHPO will match with \$12,000. Additional Online Resource Center updates will occur with mitigation funding from VTrans.
 - d. Project review team continues to work on their new project submittal system CHAMP – Cultural and Historic Architectural/Archaeological Management Program.
 - e. VDHP has connected with the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Association for Preservation Technologies (APT) to design an application that works like a flow chart for the flood adaptation process. The app is still in the design phase.
 - f. Polly Allen, who has been working temporarily on project review team for the past year while staff was on parental leave, will be departing next week.
 - g. Josh Bell has joined VDHP as the new Director of State Historic Sites.

IX. New Business

- a. 2025 Meeting Schedule
 - i. **No August Meeting**
 - ii. September 25, 2025
 - iii. October 23, 2025
 - iv. November 20, 2025
 - v. December 18, 2025 (Historic Preservation Grant Review)

The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.