



# City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

City Hall – Room 308  
85 George P. Hassett Drive  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

## December 18, 2023 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Digital meeting statement read by Jennifer Keenan at beginning of meeting.

Members present: Jennifer Keenan, Ryan Hayward, Kit Nichols, Jessica Farrell and Peter Miller. Doug Carr logged in at 7:22. Denis MacDougall also attended. Absent: Edward Weist.

### Determination of Preferably Preserved Status:

- **56 Wareham Street:** J. Keenan recapped the process for this property including the November 13, 2023 finding of significance and the meaning of preferably preserved status. The commissioners further discussed the attributes of the house including its extant detail and materials, age, and role in helping to define the neighborhood and historical development of the city. The owner/developer for the project Sid Gehlot of the Treetop Group was present at the meeting and indicated his willingness to work with the commission to mitigate the demolition. Mr. Gehlot also confirmed that his team would like to construct two attached townhomes on the site. Several community members spoke up at the meeting:
  - Jerry Hershowitz of 72 Wareham St. is in favor of finding preferably preserved.
  - Jessica Rayno of 60 Wareham St. does not want to see the house demolished.
  - Betty Wraya-Elyazidi of 53 Wareham St. loves the historical neighborhood.
  - Gabe Shaikh of 37 Wareham St. likes the old style homes and generous yards.
  - Jen Sandlin of 59-60 Wareham St. would like to know more about the development proposal and likes the tree lined canopy of the street.
  - Soundhararya Muthkumar of Wareham St. spoke in favor of protecting the house.
  - Michael Rayno of 60 Wareham St. likes the tree lined street and open spaces.**Motion:** (RH, KN 2<sup>nd</sup>) to find the house preferably preserved. **Approved:** 5-0.
- **69 Court Street (House and Carriage House):** The demolition delay hearing for this property has been tabled indefinitely pending filing of the requisite forms and fulfillment of public sign posting requirement.

### Receive Demolition Applications:

- **43 Allston Street:** Total demolition to the slab due to fire damage in order to build back to pre-existing conditions/in kind. **Motion:** (RH, PM 2<sup>nd</sup>) to accept the demolition application. **Approved:** 5-0.

### **Shiloh Baptist Church:**

- For the purposes of applying for CPC funding, this building was previously found to be significant on September 12, 2022. **Motion:** (RH, DC 2<sup>nd</sup>) to recommend determination of eligibility to Mass Historical. **Approved:** 5-0.

### **Oak Grove Cemetery Buildings (House and Garage):**

- A determination of significance was discussed for these two buildings for the purposes of applying for CPC funding. **Motion:** (RH, DC 2<sup>nd</sup>) to find significant. **Approved:** 5-0.

### **Thomas Brooks Park Archeological Cap:**

- R. Hayward showed examples of similar projects including low walls, signage, sculpture elements and an at-grade paved building footprint outline to commemorate a former historical structure. R. Hayward plans to show these ideas to Peter Hedlund of Hedlund Design Group, LLC, project landscape architect, who will attend the January 2024 historical commission meeting.

### **Draft 2023 Annual Report:**

- J. Keenan and R. Hayward will circulate the draft annual report to the commissioners for input and review.

### **2024 Meeting Dates:**

- The meeting dates were reviewed and some alterations made. Final meeting dates to be circulated and uploaded to the HC website. Remote meetings to continue until at least June 2024. Hybrid meetings to be looked at for the second half of 2024.

### **2024 Slate of Officers and Committee Assignments:**

- These were discussed briefly but finalization to be tabled until the January 8, 2024 meeting.

### **Demolition Delay Updates:**

- **91 Winchester Street (Carriage House):** Exp. 10/2024. No new update.

### **Update on Permit Review Sub-committee:**

- No new update. Interview process for the soon to be vacant Building Commissioner position on-going.

### **CLG Annual Report:**

- Awaiting information from HDC Chair, Chris Bader

### **Cross Street Cemetery:**

- **Cemetery Archaeological Study:** Moving forward with initial release of info. R. Hayward has searched but unable to find good documentation of interments. PAL revised proposal to search for burial shaft sites. City may need to strip the entire site. R. Hayward showed pre-interstate 93 aerial photo of cemetery area. 2000 people may have been buried at the site of which approx. 400 have been moved to Oak Grove. Development proposals for the site are moving forward, so the city needs to act quickly.

**Update on CPA Projects:**

- **Thomas Brooks Park:** Phase 2 projects awaiting approval decision at January CPC meeting.

**Survey Projects Update:**

- Brickyards/Mystic Park area survey completed. Awaiting Mass Historical for payment processing. Fulton Heights area survey on-going.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** **Motion:** (KN, JF 2nd) to approve the November, 13 2023 MHC meeting minutes. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Motion:** (RH, JF 2<sup>nd</sup>) to adjourn at 8:45 pm. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Next Meeting:** January 8, 2024. Start time 7:00 pm via Zoom.