



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

January 8, 2024 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Digital meeting statement read by Jennifer Keenan at beginning of meeting.

Members present: Jennifer Keenan, Ryan Hayward, Edward Weist, Doug Carr, Kit Nichols, Eleni Glekas and Peter Miller. Denis MacDougall also attended.

Determination of Preferably Preserved Status:

- **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.

Determination of Significance:

- **43 Allston Street:** The commissioners reviewed the Form B for the property and attributes of the house including its fairly common building type and extensive fire damage. The consensus was that there was not enough remaining of the original detail to warrant significance. Amy Hargreaves of United Property Restoration Services, Needham, MA and developer for the project, attended the meeting and thanked the commission for their work. **Motion:** (EW, RH 2nd) to find the house significant. **Failed:** 0-6.

Receive Demolition Applications:

- **314 Winthrop Street:** Partial demolition to remove the entire roof and add a second floor. **Motion:** (EW, RH 2nd) to accept the demolition application. **Approved:** 6-0.

New Historical Commissioner

- The commission welcomed Eleni Glekas as the new commissioner to replace the vacancy left by the departure of Jessica Farrell. Thanks again, Jess! Eleni introduced herself and spoke about her excitement to help preserve Medford's historical fabric. Eleni is a 2-year resident of Medford and the Chair of the graduate Historical Preservation program at the Boston Architectural Center. Welcome Eleni!

Peter Hedlund and Thomas Brooks Park Archeological Cap:

- R. Hayward introduced Peter Hedlund of Hedlund Design Group, LLC, project landscape architect and master planner for Thomas Brook Park. Peter recapped the master plan and milestones that have been achieved so far including the Pomp's Wall and Fieldstone Wall restorations, tree and brush clearing, and archeological dig. He described how maintaining Pomp's Wall (formerly known as the Slave Wall) was part of the original mandate of the Brooks Family grant. Peter spoke about the idea of an archaeological cap for the dig site and the historical forces which shaped the park including: the Brooks Family, enslaved persons, indigenous peoples, WWII victory gardens, the railroad and the Middlesex Canal. He suggested that it would be good to incorporate this history into the experience of the renovated park and also to include such items as an accessible path with points of interest, and restoring the allée of trees. He went on to show some examples of other projects including UMass signage and Arlington's Robbins Farm Park. The Commissioners gave feedback on the examples. Most liked the idea of incorporating the history and of somehow demarcating the outline of the former house at the dig site. Peter will follow up with conceptual plans and images to take to the CPC.

Draft 2023 Annual Report:

- The draft annual report was reviewed by the commission and finalized. **Motion:** (RH, KN 2nd) to approve the annual report. **Approved:** 6-0. D. Carr suggested that streamlining the demolition delay process be formally adopted as a goal. **Motion:** (RH, DC 2nd) to create a subcommittee to advance the streamlining process. **Approved:** 6-0.

2024 Meeting Dates:

- These were reviewed and finalized. **Motion:** (RH, PM 2nd) to approve the list of meeting dates. **Approved:** 6-0.

2024 Slate of Officers and Committee Assignments:

- These were reviewed and finalized. **Motion:** (RH, PM 2nd) to accept the slate of officers and committee assignments. **Approved:** 6-0.

Demolition Delay Updates:

- **91 Winchester Street (Carriage House):** Exp. 10/2024. No new update.
- **56 Wareham Street:** Exp. 06/2025. 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:

- R. Hayward completed the CLG Annual Report and it was submitted to Mass Historical.

Cross Street Cemetery:

- R. Hayward reported that there will be a test excavation to determine the headstone setting method.

- **Cemetery Archaeological Study:** R. Hayward reprised the process to date and shared historical maps and photos. PAL revised proposal to strip topsoil to search for burial shaft sites. Awaiting approval from the City of Medford.

Update on CPA Projects:

- **Thomas Brooks Park:** See Peter Hedlund discussion above.

Survey Projects Update:

- Fulton Heights area survey on-going. Consultants have been active within the neighborhood.
- R. Hayward discussed the need for the commission to determine priorities for future survey areas and will work with E. Glekas and other commissioners to review possibilities.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** (EW, KN 2nd) to approve the December, 18 2023 MHC meeting minutes. **Approved:** 4-0 with two abstentions.

Motion: (EW, RH 2nd) to adjourn at 8:55 pm. **Approved:** 6-0.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2024. Start time 7:00 pm via Zoom.