City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

October 6, 2025 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm. Digital meeting statement read by Jennifer Keenan at beginning of meeting.

Members present: Jennifer Keenan, Ryan Hayward, Doug Carr, Ed Wiest, and Peter Miller. Absent: Kit Nichols. Ed Wiest left the meeting at 7:31 pm. Denis MacDougall and Theresa Dupont also attended the meeting.

Determination of Preferably Preserved Status:

- **10 Irving Street:** J. Keenan recapped the process to date including the finding of Significance on Sept. 8 and reviewed the meaning of Preferably Preserved. The commissioners made comments including the highly altered condition of the house. Brian Lever of 40 Tyler Ave., advocated to allow demolition. Kathleen Desmond, owner's counsel, thanked the commission. Fernando Alves, former neighbor and project contractor, spoke about the difficulty of renovating the house including its double foundation wall. Jennifer Lavoie, of 133 Century St. Extension inquired about the possibility of adding a plaque to the property to commemorate the house after demolition. R. Hayward spoke about collaborating with the Medford Historical Society on this issue. **Motion:** (RH, EW 2nd) to find preferably preserved. **Failed:** 0-4.

Determinations of Significance:

- **41 Mystic Avenue:** R. Hayward mentioned that this is only one of two remaining 18th century gambrel houses in Medford. J. Keenan opined that due to the house's age and unique history it warranted a public hearing. **Motion:** (RH, EW 2nd) to find significant. **Approved:** 4-0.

- **121 Second Street:** The commissioners spoke about the fact that this single story bungalow style house is a common building type in Medford. Owner's representative, Rebecca Edmondson-Korom, thanked the commission. **Motion:** (DC, PM 2nd) to find significant. **Failed:** 0-4.

Receive Demolition Applications:

- **6 Hobbs Road:** Partial demolition for possible later renovation and expansion of existing home. **Motion:** (RH, PM 2nd) to pass on review. **Approved:** 4-0.

- **58 Myrtle Street:** Partial demolition for renovation purposes.
  Motion: (RH, DC 2nd) to accept the demolition application. **Approved:** 4-0.

Vacant Historical Commission Seats Update:

- Still need applicants for at least three new commissioners. Brian Lever was mentioned due to his preservation background. D. Carr also has an applicant in mind.

Historic District Commission Update:

- T. Dupont reported that HDC to meet this week. South Street LHD map to be uploaded to their website.

Demolition Delay Updates:

- **27 Almont Street**: Exp. 11/2025. No new update.
- **16 Manning Street**: Exp. 1/2027. No new update.
- **47 Holton Street**: Exp. 1/2027. Drawings uploaded to permit portal, need review by DD subcommittee.

Upcoming Potential Demolition Reviews and Form B's:

- 58 Myrtle Street, 20 Hillside Ave.

Permit Review Sub-committee:

- J. Keenan working with Building Dept. to resolve permit portal website glitches.

Oak Grove Cemetery Access Road and Stormwater Assessment

- No new update. R. Hayward to follow up.

Cross Street Cemetery Update:

- **Oak Grove Cemetery:** R. Hayward to draft request for reimbursement to Freedom's Way.

Update on CPA Projects:

- Thomas Brooks Park archeological dig to occur over 3–5 day period in late October/ early November. Volunteers needed to assist at the dig site. T. Dupont to relay dig info to city offices.
- T. Dupont mentioned Oct. 14 and Nov. 18 meeting dates for award of CPC funds.

Survey Projects Update:

- Hastings Heights survey project going out to bid this week.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** (RH, DC 2nd) to approve the September 8, 2025 Historical Commission meeting minutes. **Approved:** 4-0.

Motion: (JK, DC 2nd) to adjourn at 7:57 pm. **Approved:** 4-0.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2025. Start time 7:00 pm. Denis MacDougall to coordinate.