City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

April 13, 2026 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

Members present: Jennifer Keenan, Ryan Hayward, Doug Carr, Kit Nichols, Sara Berndt and Peter Miller. Luke Beck and Denis MacDougall also attended the meeting.

South Medford Connector Path – Section 106 Review:

- R. Hayward drafted a letter to the Massachusetts DOT Highway Division in response to the 25% design plans. The letter communicates the Historical Commission's advisory opinion that the proposal be redesigned to create a Mystic River oriented and more user friendly pathway in lieu of the current design which hugs Mystic Valley Parkway (Route 16).

Site Plan Reviews:

- **161 Mystic Avenue:** The Commission has opted to pass on review for this project.
- **85 Main Street:** The Commission has opted to pass on review for this project.
- **Tufts University Aquatic Center:** D. Carr gathered comments from the commissioners and will convey the Commission's thoughts at the public meeting.

Upcoming Potential Demolition Reviews:

- 140 Grant Avenue.

Vacant Historical Commission Seats Update:

- Luke Beck's application has been approved by the city and he will be sworn in soon. Welcome Luke!

Medford High School Section 106 Review:

- Sect 106 review triggered by funding regulations. Form B to be created for the High School and the historical commission to determine significance. The Commission is awaiting relevant information from the project consultants. R. Hayward mentioned that the HS is the only 1970's Brutalist style building in Medford.

2025 Historical Commission Annual Report:

- R. Hayward circulated an updated draft annual report and minor revisions were made by the commission. The report to be finalized and submitted to the city by the end of this week.

Brooks Estate Archaeological Survey:

- A forest fire impacted the area. Project archaeologist to return to the site in the near future.

Permit Review Sub-committee:

- J. Keenan worked with the Building Commissioner to update the building permit portal.

Update on CPA Projects:

- A laboratory day was held with 20 volunteers for artifact cleaning and sorting. The artifacts to be catalogued. Thomas Brooks Park tree work and brush removal likely to commence next week. There are 160 trees with 12" diameters including Black Walnuts that will be highlighted by the removal of invasive species, etc.

Cross Street Cemetery Update:

- **Oak Grove Cemetery:** Daedalus Conservation has provided a cost to reconstruct the gate. R. Hayward awaiting bid estimate for masonry wall refurbishment. There will be a photo op at the site at 2:00 PM on Wednesday April 15 with participants in period costume.
- **Medford Square Site:** No new update.

Survey Projects Update:

- Hastings Heights survey project under way. May request additional survey forms to be created as budget allows.

Demolition Delay Updates:

- **16 Manning Street:** Exp. 1/2027. No new update.
- **41 Mystic Avenue**: Exp. 4/2027. No new update.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** (RH, DC 2nd) to approve the March 9, 2026 Historical Commission meeting minutes. **Approved:** 5-0.

Motion: (RH, DC2nd) to dissolve the meeting at 7:58 pm. **Approved:** 5-0.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2026. Start time 7:00 pm. Denis MacDougall to coordinate.