City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

May 11, 2026 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

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

Zoning Discussion:

- D. Carr gave an update about recent City Council approved updates to the Medford Square area zoning bylaws. The updates include language giving protections to historically significant buildings. To this end, the Historical Commission will need to create a list of significant buildings within the Medford Square zoning district. R. Hayward spoke about the need for clear language in the zoning bylaw to more explicitly clarify the relationship between the new zoning code and the existing Demolition Delay statute, to avoid potential conflicts.

Vacant Historical Commission Seats Update:

- Luke Beck to be sworn in soon. R. Hayward to contact city officials regarding potential candidates.

Medford High School Section 106 Review:

- The Commission is awaiting relevant information from the project consultants.

Brooks Estate Archaeological Survey:

- R. Hayward working on contract finalization.

Update on CPA Projects:

- Thomas Brooks Park tree work and brush removal done and pathways mulched. Brooks homestead site was cleared to avoid damage. Next steps include crosswalks and potential ground penetrating radar survey of possible 1690's era homestead.

Cross Street Cemetery Update:

- **Oak Grove Cemetery:** Daedalus Conservation headstone refurbishment under way. Received bid for gate refurbishment. Potential ground penetrating radar of front of site and possible flag pole location.

Survey Projects Update:

- Hastings Heights survey project on-going. The project may be expanded to take advantage of Mass. Historical matching funds.

Brooks Estate Update:

- D. Carr reported some pushback from abutters regarding proposed parking lot and Oak Grove Cemetery expansion.

South Medford Connector Path – Section 106 Review:

- R. Hayward submitted commission comments.

Site Plan Review:

- **Tufts University Aquatic Center:** D. Carr conveyed commission comments to the development team. The design team responded with 3D design model images showcasing a much improved façade design, which he shared with the commission.

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:** (DC, SB 2nd) to approve the April 13, 2026 Historical Commission meeting minutes. **Approved:** 4-0.

Motion: (DC, RH 2nd) to dissolve the meeting at 7:58 pm. **Approved:** 4-0.

Next Meeting: June 8, 2026. Start time 7:00 pm. Denis MacDougall to coordinate.