



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

July 13, 2026, Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

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

Appointment of MHC Liaison to M-BELT:

- **Motion:** (RH, KN 2nd) to take this agenda item out of order as a courtesy to the attendees. **Approved:** 5-0 with one abstaining. J. Keenan will be stepping back from this position. Carly Neeson, President of the Medford-Brooks Estate Land Trust, spoke in favor of appointing Ben Johnson as MHC liaison to M-BELT and about his experience as an archivist. Ben Johnson spoke about his qualifications as a previous Historical Commission member and his current involvement with M-BELT. **Motion:** to appoint Ben Johnson as MHC liaison to M-BELT **Approved:** 5-0 with one abstaining.

South Medford Connector Path – Section 106 Review:

- R. Hayward reviewed the commission advisory comments regarding creating a more river-oriented path than the current Mass DOT proposal and opened the meeting for public discussion.
- Commissioners P. Miller and D. Carr voiced their agreement with the advisory comments.
- Amanda Centrella of the Medford Office of Planning, Development and Sustainability explained that Mass DOT views the project as a commuter pathway rather than a passive recreational amenity. She also cited the added costs and environmental impacts of running the pathway nearer to the river.
- Karl Alexander of Somerville and MyRWA spoke in support of the project and the need for pull-off points at ¼ mile intervals along the proposed route.
- Jeremy Martin of Birgit Ave. spoke in favor of the commuter connector but also urged consideration of further improvements to the Clippership path on the opposite bank of the river.
- Derek Dupont of 87 Otis Street spoke in favor of the project's mobility improvements but suggested leaving future options in place to engage the Mystic River.

- Jim Swanson of 18 Revere Place also spoke in favor of the project's mobility improvements.
- Ellery Klein of WalkMedford.org spoke in favor of the project and voiced support for improving existing pathways and placemaking.

Zoning Discussion:

- D. Carr reported that not a lot of zoning revision activity is anticipated over the summer but that a list of historical properties should be created in preparation for the fall. J. Keenan noted that the Wesley Church on Winthrop Street has been listed for sale.

Hegner Center:

- A demolition application has not yet been received. Cindy Watson of 65 Valley Street spoke about the need for the project to move ahead and opined that the existing building was an eyesore and a dumping ground for the city.

Vacant Seats Update:

- Two new prospective candidates have been identified.

Medford High School Section 106 Review:

- No new update. Possibly do an inventory form under the new FY budget.

Medford High School Section 106 Review:

- R. Hayward to press the project consultants to hire a team to create a historical form for the high school.

Brooks Estate Archaeological Survey:

- Draft survey received, to be reviewed at next month's meeting

Update on CPA Projects:

- Thomas Brooks Park next steps to include street crossings and possible applications for CPA funding (deadline Sept. 7).

Cross Street Cemetery Update:

- Ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys to potentially be next step.

Survey Projects Update:

- Project extension including additional survey forms to wrap up over the summer. Upcoming survey area to be Brooks Estates, pending Mass Historical matching funds.

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, KN 2nd) to approve the June 8, 2026, Historical Commission meeting minutes. **Approved:** 6-0.

Motion: (JK, RH 2nd) to dissolve the meeting at 7:59 pm. **Approved:** 6-0.

Next Meeting: August 10, 2026. Start time 7:00 pm. Denis MacDougall to coordinate.