



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

February 10, 2014 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Room 201, Medford City Hall - Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Members present: James Kossuth, Ryan Hayward, Suanna Crowley, Claire Dempsey, Gretchen Pineo, Doug Carr

Minutes from January meeting reviewed. **Minutes approved, 6-0**

Woods Bridge – Interpretive sign location at base of reconstructed bridge

Guests: Mary Stadalnick, MassDOT (mary.stadalnick@state.ma.us) & Kelly Carr – Landscape Architect with BETA Group (KCarr@BETA-Inc.com)

K. Carr noted that the intent was to install a 23"x35" (clear image) horizontal sign at the base of the new bridge over the Malden River. Kelly showed examples of historic sign graphics. Recommends that not have too much text and more powerful images to draw people in. Important for interpretive panel to interpret what is there in front of the person. Panels from older history tend to be black & white. Color is important. Up to 8 images can typically be used on an interpretive sign. Possible designs include a timeline, progression of crossings, what the part of town was used for. Handouts include some historic forms, research on the area, previous photos.

Discussion about schedule and process. These panels would not be built for at least a year or more, until the bridge reconstruction project is completed. The interpretive sign will be relatively low and follow the National Park Service standards. MHC Request MassDOT for existing conditions photos, digital copies of all historic maps and photographs. A Sub-committee will be formed to review the research, history, and interpretation concepts for the sign. Note that the sign will cost about \$10k and is part of the bridge budget. The possibility of salvaging the gears was discussed. Regroup in 6 weeks with MassDOT to give them a sense of direction and theme. If the gears are going to be salvaged, we will need to give clear direction about what is to be salvaged and we will need to coordinate with City of Medford DPW or equivalent.

Cradock Bridge: Mary asked if it was OK for her to summarize the MHC's finding that the parapet and railing design was not detrimental to the project. All agreed.

65 Prescott Street

J. Kossouth updated that buyer was going to tear down and was informed that the building was pre-1900. James has drafted a letter to the seller letting him know of our concerns.

Document Management Subcommittee

G. Pineo updated MHC on process improvements to record-keeping. Naming convention agreed to for files: year – month – date – what it is. Storage: 15GB free; 100GB = \$. Google docs don't count against the total. Medfordhc@gmail.com

Medford Historic Commission Web site status

G. Pineo updated MHC on Web site. New site will be hosted through Go-Daddy, using workpress; reorganization will take about a month or so, to get the site: www.medfordhc.org

10 Revere Place

Owners appeared to be doing some demo on an existing older building, including a rear ell on the site. This work was done with almost no documentation by the owner. Subcommittee should review the demo definitions from Brookline and other towns and meet with the City of Medford Building Dept. officials to have a discussion and review procedures. Subcommittee of R. Hayward & D. Carr.

Cabot Road Review

D. Carr reviewed the new housing project, showing plans, elevations, and 3D renderings of the 347 unit Multi-family project being planned in the parking lot of the existing office building along the Malden River. MHC comments are due by 2/17/14.

114 South Street (Grandfather's House)

New buyer. Tufts is selling the house to a buyer without any restrictions. House is under P&S agreement. Idea floated to create a one-property. Buildable lot next door – could be a problem. D. Carr to call Tufts Barbara Rubel and see what the deal is. Possible invitation to the new owners to see what their plans are.

9 Playstead, West Medford

Elevations and 3D images of the proposed design were distributed to MHC members. No issues.

244 Main Street

OCD stated that the previous proponents have withdrawn their design. No action until a new proposal emerges.

158 Fulton

Project has been through approvals with Medford – window of opportunity to comment on project is closed.

Medford Hillside Survey

No update.

West Medford Survey

All on MHC to send comments to C. Dempsey, who asked everyone to divide up the Survey and make sure there is nothing wrong, odd, etc. in the product. Pick area to review where your areas of knowledge or interest lie and let the entire MHC know via email. Shoot for Feb-March deadline.

Medford Square Survey

Grant proposal was delivered Feb. 5th by C. Dempsey.

Community Preservation Act

No update.

Letter to Real Estate Agents

Draft letter distributed by J.Kossuth for review. Consensus that the MHC letter should be written very carefully and not make any statements about a property's age without documentation. Motion to refer to sub-committee (J. Kossuth & D. Carr).

Motion to adjourn at 9:35pm. Approved, 6-0.

Notes by D. Carr