



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

November 6, 2015

The Medford Historical Commission held a Public Meeting in Room 201 in Medford City Hall at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 9, 2015. Present: James Kossuth, Ryan Hayward, Gretchen Pineo, Suanna Selby-Crowley. Absent: Doug Carr, Brian Connolly.

October meeting minutes pass 4-0.

Meeting called to order at 7pm, adjourned at 8:30pm.

New Business:

- Local Historic Districts
 - Chris Bader from Historic District Commission (HDC) came to seek guidance on how to do the budget for the HDC and to discuss the creation of a joint subcommittee on new Local Historic Districts. R. Hayward volunteered to be on subcommittee, and is responsible for reporting back to Historical Commission. A motion to create subcommittee to report on LHDs passed 4-0.
- 25 Franklin Ave -- determination of historical significance
 - Building has been demolished prior to determination of historical significance by Commission. R. Hayward feels letter from John Bavuso is arbitrary and capricious, and that the letter/Building Department needs to clearly state that the building should be demolished or not. R. Hayward intended to request documentation to take place over the 6 month demo delay, J. Bavuso said that was fine, but building is now gone. In future, Commission needs to communicate with Paul Mochi to ask for clear communication to proponents and with Commission, and be alerted when a building is going to be demolished. R. Hayward also notes that he would prefer that an outside engineer document buildings, rather than a Building Department engineer.
- 43 Irving Street – update

- Commission should send the demo delay option list to the receiver, asking for them to renovate the building to make it structurally sound as an accessory structure (different than residential code), repair in kind, then sell the building back to applicant (Bob). If receiver sells it back, can add preservation restriction – house permitted on lot, contingent on continued existence of building due to its importance to Medford history. J. Kossuth will email the receiver. The building department has not issued a statement, but R. Hayward notes that the goal is demolition of the building, where the receiver’s goal is to bring the building into compliance. Possibility raised of asking the proponent to pay for documentation of the building, which would also assist in the restoration of the property.
- 6 Rockwell Ave -- update
 - No update.
- 2016 Mass Historical Survey and Planning Grant -- selection of neighborhood
 - Commission had previously identified South Medford and Wellington neighborhoods as likely candidates for the next round of S&P Grant work. Wellington project would involve 150 building inventory forms (MHC Form B), South Medford would be the creation of a survey plan, as one does not exist yet for that part of the city. R. Hayward notes that the passage of the Community Preservation Act is going to require the City to have a Master Plan, which may address the lack of a survey plan for South Medford. After deliberation, South Medford was selected, due to the rising number of demo delay permits appearing before the Commission for properties in South Medford and increasing pressure on the area due to the Green Line extension. \$15,000 will be requested from the City for the project, which will entail a survey, recommendations, list of pre-1900 properties, and area narratives (but not Area Forms) for all major neighborhoods.
- East Medford Survey -- update
 - Consultant has been selected and notified. Kickoff meeting at MHC on Friday, Nov 20 with R. Hayward, consultant, and MHC staff. Phase I and II of project will be compressed due to time constraints.
- Woods Bridge wayside – update
 - No update.
- 25 Foster Court – update
 - R. Hayward and Myron Stachiw have finished research on the building. There’s a sign over the basement stairs, R. Hayward has requested the sign. Building may have been the office for Foster’s Shipyard, possibly with 2 rooms upstairs accessed by a ladder.

Building was converted to a residence ca. 1880s, at which point the ell was likely added.

Building is visible in shipyard photos from 1871 when *Liberty* was being constructed.

Old Business:

- 523, 541, 551 Winthrop Street -- update
 - No update, J. Kossuth will continue to reach out to developers.
- 18/20 Woods Edge Road – update
 - No update.
- 21 Touro Avenue -- update
 - C.Bader from HDC discussed potentially creating a Local Historic District (see above).
- Cradock Bridge granite -- status
 - No update
- West Medford potential historic district -- update
 - J. Kossuth will distribute information sent by C. Dempsey. Revisit topic in March to potentially hire a consultant to create a draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form if there is enough money remaining in budget.
- Archives -- status
 - Archiving work day Nov 21 at 10 am at Medford Public Library to begin to work through organizing commission files, including survey forms. G.Pineo has supplies.
- Tufts University survey -- update
 - D. Carr will follow up with people at Tufts.
- Website -- update
 - No update.
- Membership
 - J. Kossuth will not be seeing reappointment in December.