



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

October 20, 2014 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Members present: James Kossuth, Ryan Hayward, Doug Carr, Claire Dempsey, Gretchen Pineo, Not present: Suanna Selby Crowley.

Minutes from September meeting are posted in Google docs. Approved, 5-0.

New Business:

19 Mystic Avenue - Determination of Historical Significance

- J. Kossuth summarized process of determining significance.
- Peter. Grava & Carol Winsor: Fire circa 1981. Nano the hairdresser changed everything.
- D. Carr noted that there are several areas of the form B that need to be added
- Grava noted that the number of changes made to the building are significant and very little of the original building is left.
- Ryan Hayward – yes; d. Carr – no, lack of integrity; Gretchen: no; Claire: no. A good example of mid-19th century due to rareness. The story of the area is very interesting and needs to be investigated. Location and setting – gone as it relates to the story.
- **Motion:** move Not Significant, **Approved** 5-0.
- J. Kossuth requested that the proponent assist with fleshing out the history of the building and the area in more detail.

25 Winthrop Place - Determination of Historical Significance - applying to tear down.

- J. Kossuth summarized process of determining significance.
- Both houses at 11 and 25 Winthrop Place are now owned by the same family.
- Claire: unusual to have middle of a block; relationship to neighborhood interesting. This development pattern is unique; whatever happens to the building, a request to investigate what is underneath so that it is not lost. Building has some integrity and its historic context.
- Gretchen: echoes Claire's sentiments.

- Doug: agreed; leaning against; lack of original fabric. Its siting and context are rare and it's a tough call.
- Longer discussion of the process of investigation that the Commission would like to see.
- **Motion:** Building is **Not Significant** – Carr – Yes; Ryan: No; Claire: No, looking for more research; Gretchen: No. **Motion** fails 3-1.
- **Motion** to find **Significant:** passes, 3-1.
- **Consensus:** go in and do some creative destruction to see how much fabric is still there. Meeting next on Nov. 17th; get a consultant in the building to review.
- Claire to call Myron and spend \$1,000 for a quick hit on the demo.

West Medford Survey – discussion of borders for potential National Historic District.

- One way: Subdivision that has fairly extensive boundaries (inclusive model); Another way: definition of African-American historic neighborhood; an issue that there is not continuity – the properties are scattered over the neighborhood. Rules are that period of significance has a beginning and end date.
- Not a segregated community, but an integrated community. That is a story that is unique.
- Possible path: get an Eligibility Opinion – create a big area form, take what we have and ask the MHC.
- Lots of research and Field Surveys would need to be done.
- Action item: eastern boundary and story and period of significance.

Woods Bridge Wayside research

- We want something more interesting and fun. D. Carr to email consultant with some graphics and direction.

2015 Survey Grant Applications

- Claire: we should apply, but needs more help. Claire: East Medford or Wellington should be the next neighborhood on the list to be studied.
- Decision: East Medford the decision. Reason: Flipping houses, loss of houses. Ryan to meet with the Mayor to get commitment for City of Medford \$20k match.

CLG report – status. No change Annual Report sent last month.

Salem Street Burying Ground

- News reports of damaged gravestones.
- J. Kossuth to reach out to Nino.

American Association for State and Local History “Impact Project” – discussion.

Site Plan Review – Middlesex Ave. 200 units of housing on former GE Lot. J. Kossuth will scan the proposal and distribute. We want to see drawings to comment upon.

Survey Update – Hillside Final Report in; Medford Square kick-off meeting is Wednesday.

Old Business:

- Cradock Bridge granite – no change
- Peace Garden Section 106 review – Letter to be sent
- CPA subcommittee report – organization of interested parties is starting to come together and things are gearing up for the 2015 campaign.
- Hillside Neighborhood Survey – status (5 min)
- Medford Community Day participation – big success

Motion to adjourn at 9:20pm. Approved, 5-0. Notes by D. Carr

Next meeting: Monday, November 17th.