



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

November 17, 2014 Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Room 201, Medford City Hall - Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

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

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

25 Winthrop Place - Determination of Preferably Preserved

- J. Kossuth summarized process.
- C. Dempsey recounted findings of the site investigation and how the house is remarkably well-maintained and a rare example of a “common” house, with straightforward finishes, rooms that are connected to other rooms.
- S. Crowley: catching up. Leaning towards preferably preserved.
- D. Carr – little historic integrity per the report. Leans against being preferably preserved.
- R. Hayward – after review of leaning towards being preferably preserved.
- C. Dempsey – there is less fabric than previous examples of historic preservation that the MHC has attempted to preserve.
- C. Dempsey noted that her view of history is that it is more than about the wealthy and high architecture. It is also about the more common and typical people that make up history.
- C. Dempsey **Motioned** that the building Not be Preferably Preserved.

Passed, 3-2.

- Owners: are OK with further study now that the OK has been given to be demolished. Claire: requested that the owners consider financial contribution toward further documentation.

Woods Bridge Wayside research

- D. Carr to coordinate with consultant to get some graphics to match draft text.

West Medford – Potential National Historic District Boundaries and Period

- Potential Period of Significance – wide ranging discussion about survey degree, period of significance.

- Asking for a nomination would invoke further research. Eligibility opinion only with MHC.
- Some sort of Area Form would be required.
- Next steps: Claire's West Medford essay and reference materials to make the case.
- NHD potential boundaries and time: the Smith Estate, 1850 with an end date of 50 years from today is the starting point per the Commission recommendation.
- Claire: get a consultant to focus on streets and architecture of the defined area.
- Preservation Planning!

CLG report –Annual Report to be sent in a couple of days.

2015 Survey Grant Application - East Medford – submitted today.

Advertising for new Medford Historic Commission members – J. Kossuth to pursue.

New Business:

- **Hervey School condo in West Medford** – looking at putting balconies on the building. D. Carr to review building.
- J.Kossuth: is stepping down as Chair next month. Chair TBD.

City of Medford is asking MHC to charge for Demo Delay; J. Kossuth believes there are no other cities or towns that use this procedure. Discussion with Stephanie Burke ongoing.

Salem Street Burying Ground

- J. Kossuth to reach out to Nino.

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 Survey underway. Claire wants to inquire about casino mitigation dollars for use by the Historic Commission survey uses.

Old Business:

- Cradock Bridge granite – no change
- Peace Garden Section 106 review – Letter was sent.
- CPA subcommittee report – organization of interested parties is starting to come together and things are gearing up for the 2015 campaign. Crafting list of stakeholders and petition text progress.

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

Next meeting: Monday, December 8th, 2014.

Tentative Date to meet with Virginia Adams: Monday, Jan. 26th, 2015. Feb. 2 alternate.