



City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

Medford Historical Commission Annual Report 2013

Current Membership:

James Kossuth, Chair (Term Ex. 12/1/2015)
Ryan D. Hayward, Vice Chair (Term Ex. 12/1/2016)
Doug Carr, Secretary (Term Ex. 12/1/2016)
Claire Dempsey, Commissioner (Term Ex. 12/1/2015)
Suanna Crowley, Commissioner (Term Ex. 12/1/2015)
Gretchen Pineo, Commissioner (Term Ex. 12/1/2016)

Meetings:

Second Monday of every month, except noted holidays, 7PM, Room 201, Medford City Hall.

Contact:

HistoricalCommission@MedfordHC.org

Accomplishments:

- Held multiple meetings with MassDOT regarding Cradock Bridge to ensure that the new bridge respects the historic nature of the crossing and enhances the relationship of the bridge to the Mystic River and Medford Square.
- Participated in ongoing Section 106 review with MassDOT regarding Woods Bridge and Woodland Road.
- Performed documentation of the historic structures at the DPW Yard before their demolition, to record one of three historically important civic buildings built in Medford during the Depression (City Hall and the Forest St. Post Office being the others).
- Worked with Royall House and Slave Quarters to ensure that handicapped accessible restroom would respect historic fabric of the Slave Quarters.
- Cooperated with DPW and Fire Department to ensure that exterior renovations at Salem Street Firehouse

would be aesthetically pleasing and consistent with the building's historic fabric.

- Received grant from Massachusetts Historic Commission to begin survey of historic properties in Hillside Neighborhood, as ongoing part of long overdue citywide survey.
- Applied for a grant from Massachusetts Historic Commission to begin survey of historic properties in Medford Square.
- Added new commissioner, Gretchen Pineo.
- Sent representatives to Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference to stay abreast of current trends in historic preservation and to apply lessons learned in Medford.
- Increased annual budget from \$700 to over \$10,000, with funds used primarily to retain professional specialists to research and record buildings subject to demolition delay review.
- Working with Medford Historical Society to ensure that Peter Tufts House continues to be appropriately maintained and used.

Site Plan Review:

The Office of Community Development solicited, and the Commission provided, comments on the following requests for site plan review:

- 42 Alfred Street
- 158 Fulton Street
- 244 Main Street

Demolition Delay:

- Properties Reviewed and actions:
 - 133 Jerome Street -- After the Commission found that the home was both historically significant and preferably preserved, the Commission imposed a six-month demolition delay in January 2013. After working with both the owner and applicant to identify any reasonable alternatives to demolition, and finding none, the Commission retained an expert to document the building with photographs, drawings, and a historical narrative before its demolition.
 - 244 Main Street -- After the Commission found that the home was both historically significant and preferably preserved, the Commission imposed a six-month demolition delay in April 2013. After working with the owner to identify any reasonable alternatives to demolition, and finding none, the Commission retained an expert to document the building with photographs, drawings, and a historical narrative before its planned demolition.
 - 333 Winthrop Street -- After the Commission found that the home was both historically significant and preferably preserved, the Commission imposed a six-month demolition delay in July 2013. After working with the owner to identify any reasonable alternatives to demolition, and finding none, the Commission retained an expert to document the building with photographs, drawings, and a historical narrative before its planned demolition.
 - 65 Prescott Street -- In November 2013, the Commission learned that the owner of 65 Prescott Street was seeking a variance to construct a two-family home on the lot after demolishing the existing building, which was built prior to 1900. The Commission notified the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Building Department that the owner must first appear before the Commission to determine if there is a reasonable alternative to demolition. The owner has not yet applied to demolish the building.
 - 122 Harvard Avenue -- In July 2013, the Commission approved the demolition of this home,

which was built after 1900.

- 20 Macklin Street -- In December 2013, the Commission approved the demolition of this home, which was built after 1900.

Goals for 2014

- Continue to educate owners, developers, and real estate brokers about the Demolition Delay ordinance. (Meeting with City department heads, public lecture/ Q&A session, newspaper article).
- Seek new commission member to fill vacancy by advertising online and local papers, interview candidates and provide recommendations to the Mayor.
- Investigate feasibility of reusing granite from Cradock Bridge as benches in “Sleepy Hollow” (between Hand Footbridge and Rt 16), in coordination with state and local officials.
- Investigate feasibility of reusing gears and other mechanical parts from Woods Bridge as part of a display at One Cabot Road development.
- Finalize and publish results of West Medford historic property survey.
- Complete Phase 1 of Hillside historic property survey.
- Completely overhaul existing website content with updated materials and language.
- Actively seek new funding sources for survey of historic buildings:
 - Increase funding in yearly budget to allow for research and documentation of buildings subject to demolition delay.
 - Request additional funding from the Mayor’s Office for non-grant supported inventory.
 - Continue to apply for grant funding through the Massachusetts Historical Commission for historic property survey of Medford Square.
 - Discuss CDBG funding with the Office of Community Development
 - Research possibility of Medford becoming Community Preservation Act city.

Respectfully submitted,

James Kossuth
Chair

Feb. 28, 2014