



# City of Medford

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

## March 8, 2021 Medford Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting held via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.  
Digital Meeting statement read by J. Keenan, Chair, at beginning of meeting.

Members present: Jennifer Keenan, Ryan Hayward, Doug Carr, Edward Wiest, Abigail Salerno and Peter Miller. Denis MacDougall also present.

### Determination of Preferably Preserved Status:

- **202 Middlesex Avenue** – Delson Filho, owner, and Derick Snare, architect for the renovation, attended the meeting. J. Keenan reviewed the process on the project to date, including withdrawal of previous applicant, new application, and re-instatement of determination of significance from previous review. The merits of the house were discussed by the commissioners including: association with historic Wellington development area, high Queen Anne architectural style, and its association with the upwardly mobile economic class of the period, and the significant family histories involved, including extant diaries of the daughters of Henry L. Cornell. Comments were made by the architect and the owner concerning the scope of the renovation. There seemed to be some uncertainty that the Commission had the latest drawing set, so the architect will forward those to the demolition delay subcommittee. **Motion:** to find preferably preserved. **Approved:** 5-0.

### Determinations of Significance:

- **104 Harvard Avenue** – Owner, Brian Roy of 104 Harvard Avenue, Medford attended the meeting. The merits of the house was discussed by the commissioners including its association with the African American community and immigration patterns of the period, possible strong contribution to a future local historic district, the status of the builder as a veteran and significant community member, the house as a character defining example of the bungalow style and its excellent condition and well preserved level of detail. The owner asked for the Form B to be sent to him. **Motion:** to find significant. **Approved:** 5-0.
- **70 Lawrence Street** – Owner Robert Verdi attended the meeting. The merits (or lack thereof) of the house were discussed with many of the commissioners being of the opinion that, although the house had a history typical of the period, it is a fairly common end house type and has been stripped of most of its character defining

detail. In general, the commission felt that the house does not rise to the level of being historically or architecturally significant. **Motion:** to find significant. **Failed:** 0-5.

- **3960 Mystic Valley Parkway** – Aaron Falzarano and Dawn Varacchi-Ives, owner’s representatives for General Electric, attended the meeting. The merits of the building were discussed by the commissioners. Although the building was found to have some Art Deco stylistic elements and was a positive contributor to the overall economic development of the city, the commission was of the opinion that the building did not rise to the level of significant. No members of the public spoke on the buildings behalf, but A. Salerno wondered if the possibly building may have meaning to some ex-employees who worked there in the past. **Motion:** to find significant. **Failed:** 1-4.

**Receive Demolition Applications:**

- 34 Linden Avenue – Total demolition in order to construct an appropriate commercial structure. The demolition application was reviewed. **Motion:** to accept the demolition application. **Approved:** 4-0. **Motion:** to expend \$500.00 for the creation of a Form B. **Approved:** 4-0.
- 174 Fulton Street – Partial demolition in order to develop the second floor and add dormers to develop the attic. The demolition application was reviewed. **Motion:** to accept the demolition application. **Approved: 4-0.** **Motion:** to expend \$500.00 for the creation of a Form B. **Approved:** 4-0.
- 28 Albion Street - Partial demolition in order to add dormers to extend the second floor to align with the first floor. Complete [interior] gut of basement, first, second and third half story. The demolition application was reviewed. **Motion:** to accept the demolition application and forward to the demolition delay subcommittee. **Motion:** to expend \$500.00 for the creation of a Form B , if needed. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Fire Station Repairs Update:** Riverside, Fulton Heights and Park Street stations to be renovated with new roofs, windows, etc. No new information from city officials. The Mayor has requested that the Commission determine if the stations are significant. Doug Carr to draft a letter to the Mayor, Fire Chief and Community Development Board to try to find out scope of work and next steps. **Motion:** to expend \$1500.00 for the creation of a Form B for each station. **Approved:** 5-0.

**New Member Discussion:** J. Keenan announced that the new member subcommittee recommends Jessica Farrell to become our new commissioner and that the other two strong unselected candidates be recommended to the HDC, if the candidates are interested. HDC’s Chris Bader has signaled that they would welcome the two candidates. **Motion:** to recommend Jessica Farrell to the Mayor. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Mass DOT – Middlesex Ave Crosswalk Upgrades Project:** D. Carr circulated a letter for review by the commissioners.

**Demolition Delay Updates:** The demolition delay subcommittee to meet and forward comments to the owners of 75 South Street and 15 Hadley Place.

**Update on Permit Review Sub-committee:** J. Keenan had a substantive meeting with Building Commissioner Paul Mochi. The Historic Commission and other relevant boards to get a full access to the on-line permit system.

**Update on CPA Projects: Oak Grove trees:** No update. **Thomas Brooks Park:** J. Keenan reported that the City Council approved the CPC grant for Phase 1. Next step is to bid out the work. Several archeologically qualified community members, including Annie Streetman, have expressed interest in participating in the dig.

**Survey Project Update:** Winter Hill area survey work under way, awaiting product.

**Local Historic District Updates:**

- See discussion above on recommended candidates.
- Forest Street LHD survey has been written. Next step is letter to the neighbors.
- HDC regular meetings now on Thursday evenings.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** to approve February 8, 2021 MHC meeting minutes. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Motion:** To adjourn at 8:36 pm. **Approved:** 5-0.

**Next Meeting:** April 12, 2021 via Zoom. Start time 7:00 pm. Denis MacDougall to coordinate.