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MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY MARCH 2, 2026 @ 7PM

This meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was conducted via in-person participation in the Trustees Room at the Melrose Public Library, 69 West Emerson Street, Melrose MA

CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Shane Egan at 7:00PM. Members in attendance included Rebecca Blumenthal, George Biblios, Joe Hunt, Darren Brown, and Cath Giliberto. Gentry Andrews was absent. Historical Commission volunteer Lucy Ferrante was present. One member of the public was present, Nancy Clover.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from February 2, 2026. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The second order of business was to open the forum for comments from the public, of which there were none.

DISCUSSION

- I. ***Review Public Comment Policy***

- II. ***Demolition Delay—Status of Commission Change from Advisory to Regulatory***
 - a. *See 1.5.26 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of Demolition Delay.*

- b. In public hearing at the next City Council meeting on March 16 there will be a motion to bring the issue of changing the status of the Historical Commission from 'advisory' to 'regulatory' for vote at the April meeting.

III. *Mary Stetson Clarke Award Plan Process*

- a. *See 6.2.25 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the 2nd annual presentation of an honorary award for the purpose of recognizing a deserving recipient for their demonstrated commitment to the celebration and preservation of the history of Melrose, Massachusetts.*
- b. The Commission discussed starting to promote the 2026 Mary Stetson Clarke Award with nominations due by May 1st. The last two awards have been presented to recipients based on their lifetime of promoting and preserving Melrose history, but the award recipients can be recognized for a variety of achievements related to Melrose's history. The plan is to present this year's award at the Victorian Fair in 2026.

IV. *Sewall Green Wright Dedication Update*

- a. *See 9.8.25 meeting minutes for earlier discussion regarding honoring the geneticist Sewall Wright, born in Melrose*
- b. On the hunt for a rock. Waiting for the final ideas of wording from Harvard Dr. May suggest they donate the plaque itself to expedite the process of installation.
- c. Parks Department is still looking for an appropriate stone to place a marker on Conservation Land of Sewall Woods adjacent to his birthplace. Dr Govindaraju will submit a paragraph of wording for the plaque. Dr. Govindaraju has indicated that he will have sources to fund the plaque.

V. *Beebe School Tour Recap*

- a. The Beebe School will be demolished in the coming weeks to make way for the new Public Safety Building on its site. Built in 1956, The Beebe School was the first of three mid-century style schools constructed in Melrose. Its construction was followed a decade later by the Franklin School and the Hoover School using a very similar floor plan.

- b. Denise Gaffey, City of Melrose Project Manager of the Public Safety Facilities, offered the members of the Historical Commission a tour before the site was turned over to the contractors. The members who attended were Chair Shane Egan, Darren Brown and Rebecca Blumenthal. They were tasked with identifying any items of historical value to the city that might not have already been accounted.
- c. The Commission identified a painting and a tile mosaic project that should be saved. They also asked that the school lettering on the exterior façade be conserved. The project planners already had plans to save the bronze memorial plaques on the site. The original 1956 corner stone will also be incorporated into the new building.
- d. The next site for demolition will be the Tremont St. fire department. Denise Gaffey will offer members of the Commission the opportunity to tour that building on March 6, 2026.

VI. *Summit Ave Development Update*

- a. *See 9.8.25 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of a citizen request for more information about the archaeological relevance of this development parcel.*
- b. Please see the letter received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission filed with these minutes. The MHC gave general guidelines and suggestions regarding the Summit Avenue development project. They suggestions included completing a city-wide archaeological survey to identify sensitive archaeological sites in regard to future development.

VII. *Historic Home Plaque Program Project*

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program*
- b. Vice Chair Joe Hunt updated the committee on the status of this program. The program was soft launched approximately a year ago. Since then, 8 total plaques have been completed by Markarian Signs of Wakefield. Six have been paid for and successfully delivered. Markarian will takes some photos and videos of their manufacturing process that may be of interest for the promotion of this program.

- c. Joe Hunt has created a series of articles on historic buildings in the city for the purpose of promoting the program. He will work with Shane to get digital versions ready for distribution

VIII. MHS Senior Internship

Chair Egan has enrolled the Melrose Historical Commission in the Melrose High School Senior internship program through Brian Corrigan. The volunteer opportunities are being made available to students this month. We will know soon if any students are interested in intern opportunities with the Melrose Historical Commission.

IX. Research Your Home Night 5.16.26 Plans and Timeline

- a. See 6.2.25 meeting minutes for a summary of the most recent Research Your Home Night (RYHN).
- b. The next RYHN is scheduled on Wednesday May 6th at the VFW on Main Street. Scott Macaulay has been contacted and will try to attend. Shane will update the presentation by next month's meeting.
- c. Shane will promote the RYHN on social media and to the weekly news. It usually fills up within a few weeks. There are approximately 35 slots /70 attendees.

X. Social Media Post Status

MHC volunteer Lucy Ferrante has written and researched some social media posts that are ready to be published. There will be upcoming posts on the Home Plaques. The Mary Stetson Clarke Award will be promoted on FB and Instagram. Chair Shane Egan welcomes other ideas.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7pm in the lower-level Trustees Room at the Melrose Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Egan at 8:05pm.