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MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY June 1, 2026 @ 7PM

This meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was conducted via in-person participation in the Lower Level Conference 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 7:02PM. Members in attendance included Rebecca Blumenthal, Joe Hunt, George Biblos and Cath Giliberto. Gentry Andrews and Darren Brown were absent. Historical Commission high school volunteer Lucy Ferrante was present. One member of the public was also present.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from May 4, 2026. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The second order of business was to open the forum for comments from the public.

Attendee Nancy Clover announced that the Mary Livermore Park sign has been unveiled at the City Hall.

DISCUSSION**I. *Review Public Comment Policy*****II. *Research Your Home Night 5.6.26 Recap***

- a. *See 11.3.25 meeting minutes for a summary of a previous Research Your Home Night (RYHN).*
- b. Commission members agreed that the RYHN event at the Melrose VFW was a successful event with positive feedback from attendees. There was agreement that the VFW location works well for the needs of the presenters. The Historical Commission received enough donations from attendees to cover the cost of the hall rental.
- c. Approximately thirty-six families attended this event.

III. *Treasurer's Report*

Recent donations have been deposited in the account of the Historical Commission by Treasurer Darren Brown.

IV. *Demolition Review Standards—Rules and Regulations Draft Review*

- a. *See 1.5.26 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of Demolition Delay.*
- b. The new regulatory status of the Historical Commission has been approved by the City Council. The Commission is now ready to review and regulate property demolition requests for any structure built before 1900.
- c. The initial review is scheduled to take place during the July 6, 2026 MHC public meeting in the Cassidy Room on the 2nd floor of City Hall at 7pm. The structure to be considered is at 81 Lynde Street.
- d. The MHC is developing standards in accordance with the wording in the Demolition Delay regulation. The MHC has received feedback from the City Planner's office. The following are the MHC Demolition Review Standards of Historical Evaluation:
 - i. Setting
 - ii. Material
 - iii. Design
 - iv. Location

- v. Workmanship
 - vi. Expression
 - vii. Association
- e. Members of the MHC reviewed the amended wording of the Demolition Review Standards and offered comments and suggestions that Chair Egan will share with the City Planner.

V. *Historical Grant Application Process*

Cath Gilberto researched the process to obtain 50/50 Commonwealth of Massachusetts funding through Massachusetts Historical Commission for the purpose of historical and archaeological projects in Melrose. The MHC members will consider possible projects before the next fiscal year's proposals are due to be submitted to the Commonwealth.

VI. *Sewall Green Wright Dedication Update*

- a. *See 5.4.26 meeting minutes for more information regarding honoring the geneticist Sewall Wright, born in Melrose*
- b. Chair Egan is researching the cost of the plaque. Once the cost is known he will contact the Harvard professor who is advocating for Sewall Green Wright's recognition to see if he and his colleagues are interested in funding.

VII. *Victorian Fair Participation Discussion*

The MHC needs to decide if it will be participating in the Victorian Fair in September 2026 based on its cost and the MHC's limited funds. The members will discuss this topic next month when the final cost of participation for the 2026 fair is known.

VIII. *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. He has been plagued by technical difficulties with the application document so produced a new application that he is testing.
- c. There has been an increase in interest in receiving applications since the recent Research Your Home Night.

IX. *Social Media Post Status*

No update.

X. *Historic Melrose Update*

No update.

XI. *Executive Session*

The MHC entered an executive session to discuss the Mary Stetson Clarke Award nominees.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, July 6, 2026, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room on the second floor of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Egan at 8:30pm.