

MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY JULY 8, 2024 @ 7PM

This meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was conducted via in-person participation in the Cassidy Room of City Hall, Melrose

CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Kimberly Marolda at 7:03pm. Members present in addition to Chair Marolda were Vice Chair Tom Champoux, Treasurer Shane Egan, Secretary Rebecca Blumenthal, Joseph Hunt, and Darren Brown. Member George Biblos was absent. There were two members of the general public present, Pyae and Kellie Hein of 20 Chestnut Park, Melrose.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from June 5, 2024. 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*

- a. *See 6.6.23 meeting minutes for more detail on the public comment policy.*

II. *Research Presentation on Curtis Goss home by Commissioner Joe Hunt*

- a. Commissioner Joe Hunt presented a slide show of the Curtis Goss Home, 20 Chestnut Park, Melrose.
- b. The current homeowners, Pyae and Kellie Hein, are only the third family to reside there, having purchased the home in January 2023.
- c. This home came to the MHC's attention when the current owners reached out to the Commission to support their request to National Grid for a more historically and architecturally sympathetic solution to their desired upgrade to a 400-amp electrical service.

- d. Members were grateful to Pyae and Kellie Hein for attending the presentation and sharing updates on their efforts to upgrade their property while respecting its significant historic features.

III. ***Historic Home Plaque Program Project Update***

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program.*
- b. Chair Marolda reviewed the status of this project.
 - i. The City Solicitor has provided final approval of all the details of this project rollout.
 - ii. Members present reviewed the final documents, including the press release, plaque application form and MACRIS application. (Homeowners are encouraged but not required to submit the MACRIS form to participate in this program.)
 - iii. Members suggested edits to the press release and clarifying language on the application.
 - iv. Vice Chair Tom Champoux will create mock-ups of several options from which homeowners may choose to present the unique historical facts of their home on their plaque.

IV. ***Mary Stetson Clarke Historical Recognition Award Update***

- a. *See 6.5.24 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the proposal to create an honorary annual 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. Chair Marolda provided members with the press release and nomination application for their review and edit suggestions. Members will provide feedback via email to Chair Marolda as soon as possible.
- c. Vice Chair Champoux updated the commission that he has been in contact with a trophy manufacturer who has assured him that they will be able to create a trophy with an etching of a provided portrait of Mary Stetson Clarke.

V. ***Planning of next Research Your Home Night (RYHN)***

- a. Chair Marolda has confirmed the Mt Hood Clubhouse as the venue for the next RYHN on September 29, 2024. Mt Hood will provide tables, chairs, linens, a projection screen and a microphone. The MHC will provide a projector, presenters, research materials, and

volunteers to assist homeowners. Setup starts at 6pm. The event will run from 7-9pm. Cleanup will be 9-930pm.

- b. Shane Egan has confirmed with research/local librarian Shelly O'Brien that the Melrose Public Library will make their relevant research books and materials available to the MHC for the event. He is also in communication with local historian Scott Macauley concerning his attendance and the availability of his research materials.
- c. Since the Mt. Hood venue accommodates 100 attendees Chair Marolda discussed opening up attendance to a wider audience to help address the 70-homeowner waitlist that remains from the most recent RYHN. Time management strategies for efficiently assisting and answering questions from the most attendees possible were discussed.

VI. ***Victorian Fair Participation***

- a. Chair Marolda announced that the MHC's participation at the 2024 Melrose Victorian Fair is confirmed.
- b. This year's fair is Sunday, September 8 11am-4pm. The Melrose Chamber of Commerce will provide an awning and table. The MHC will bring its banner, tablecloth and materials to share with the public.
- c. Along with shifts of two volunteers throughout the event, the MHC will have a WIFI-connected laptop at its table to provide basic home research information to attendees as well as promoting the RYHN.

VII. ***Other Business***

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room of City Hall

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Marolda at 8:48pm.