

MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2025 @ 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 Shane Egan at 7:00PM. Members in attendance included Secretary Rebecca Blumenthal, George Biblos and Joseph Hunt. Vice Chair Tom Champoux and Darren Brown were absent. There were no members of the public present.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from January 6, 2025. 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***

There was no need to review the Public Comment Policy as no members of the public were present.

II. *Presentation of Local Home / Building Research*

There was no presentation this month. George Biblos may present at the March meeting.

III. *Update on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration Planning*

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for more information on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration.*
- b. On Friday January 31 Chair Shane Egan attended and reported back on the inaugural planning meeting of the City of Melrose birthday celebration to be held this spring.
- c. Other attendees included Mayor Jen, Tom Dalton (the chairperson of this celebration), local historian Brad Hutchinson, Stephanie Nelson (Melrose Chamber of Commerce), Kathy Pigott-Brodeur (Executive Director, Memorial Hall), Kris Rodolico (Executive Director, Follow Your Art), Sam Hammar, and Councilor Cal Finocchiaro.

- d. The event will take place on Saturday May 3, 2025 at Melrose Memorial Hall 10am-noon. It will be a family-friendly event featuring past and present city officials.
- e. The Historical Commission has offered to provide its collection of historical photos from its own recent 50th anniversary event.

IV. *Mary Stetson Clarke Historical Recognition Award*

- a. *See 6.5.24 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the creation of 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 Egan proposed the presentation of the next MS Clarke award be scheduled for fall 2025 due to lead times needed for promotion and vetting nominations.
- c. Proposed timeline: start publicizing and seeking nominations in May, accept nominations until August 1, vote on recipient at the August meeting, present award at the Victorian Fair.

V. *Historic Home Plaque Program Update*

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program.*
- b. Joe Hunt has not yet connected with former Chair Marolda to effect the transfer of the existing approved historical plaque applications. According to Chair Egan, the transfer of access to the Historical Commission's social media outlets and email account is still pending, also.
- c. Once Joe Hunt secures the paperwork, he will deliver it in person to Markarian Sign in Wakefield. Markarian has offered to take over communication with the applicants from that point.

VI. *Research Your Home Night Dates / Locations Update*

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for a summary of Research Your Home Night.*
- b. Rebecca Blumenthal advised members present that the VFW on Main St. was the best option for a paid venue for the next event, per her research. This venue offers a smart screen TV, easy access and parking, a large modern space, and the cost includes set up.
- c. Chair Egan suggested the week of April 7th as possible dates for the next RYHN. The Commission can run through and finalize the presentation at their monthly meeting on April 7th, with the event held later that week, ideally.

- d. Rebecca Blumenthal will contact the venue about availability and finalize details with Chair Egan. Chair Egan will secure the existing list of interested homeowners from former Chair Marolda.

VII. ***Cataloging of Historical Items Held by the City***

- a. *See 1.6.2025 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of this topic.*
- b. Chair Egan met with the City Clerk and toured throughout City Hall, including the City Clerk's office, the basement, and Assessor's office.
- c. Chair Egan reported that most of the historical items in City Hall consist of pre-digital age paperwork and land, business, birth, and death records. Items of interest included old City Clerk stamps, vintage photos of past mayors and officials, photos of homes built after the mid 20th c. and old business applications starting as early as 1899.
- d. Chair Egan has started the process of digitizing the information on some of these records. He plans to visit the Fire Station and Memorial Hall in the coming months.

VIII. ***Other Business***

The Historical Commission needs to fill one vacancy following the resignation of former Chair Kimberly Marolda. Chair Egan will communicate with former Chair Marolda and Vice Chair Tom Champoux to discuss the process for filling past vacancies. Chair Egan informed several members that their expiring terms were being extended at this month's meeting of the City Council.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Egan at 8:00pm.