

MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY APRIL 7, 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 Rebecca Blumenthal, George Biblios, Joseph Hunt, and Darren Brown. 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 March 3, 2025. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes with an edit to add page numbers.

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. *Research Your Home Night Planning (RYHN)*

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for a summary of Research Your Home Night (RYHN).*

- b. The next RYHN will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 7-830pm at the VFW at 428 Main Street.
- c. There are approximately 34 homes represented among the registrants for this event. There is expected to be approximately 50-70 attendees.
- d. Chairperson Egan will deliver the presentation with the assistance of Joe Hunt, who will explain the Historic Home Plaque Program to attendees. They did a walk-through of the power point presentation that has been updated with more detailed examples from each of the online web links, including genealogy sites, historic newspapers, tax assessors, and registry of deeds links, among others.
- e. Also attending will be Scott Macaulay who will bring relevant historic materials for the reference of RYHN attendees. The Melrose Public Library has also supplied historic reference materials on loan for the event.

III. ***MHC plans to Acknowledge 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord/April 19th***

- a. *See 3.8.25 meeting minutes for more information on the discussion to acknowledge the April 19th anniversary.*
- b. Rebecca Blumenthal has written a draft for a social media post highlighting the roles played by some citizens of what would later be known as Melrose in the events around the Battle of Lexington and Concord 250 years ago this month.
- c. Members present read the draft and offered comments. Members discussed possible subjects to include as photographs in the post.
- d. Rebecca Blumenthal will provide photos and Chairperson Egan will set the post to go public on the MHC's social medial sites on April 19th. He will also share these plans with the Mayor's office.

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

- a. *See 3.8.25 meeting minutes for more information on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration.*
- b. The Celebration will take place at Memorial Hall on May 3rd, 2025 from 10am-noon. Various locations will host satellite events including the following:
 - i. A photo opportunity at the Ell Pond Gazebo
 - ii. A special event at Molly's Bookstore
 - iii. A mural at the YMCA park sponsored by Rockland Trust
 - iv. Special dining options available downtown
- c. The family-friendly event will include cake, live music, and an art installation by Follow Your Art that will be installed in the Council Chambers following the celebration.

- d. The Melrose Historical Commission will have a table at the event and will be displaying historical photos and have available Historic Home Plaque applications.
- e. Chairperson Egan has created a 20-minute power point that will play on a loop outlining major events in the development of the civic and cultural life of Melrose, including historical photos. He was assisted in this project by local historian Scott Macaulay.

V. ***Historic Home Plaque Program Update***

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program*
- b. Plaques will cost \$116 (or \$120 via credit card) payable to Markarian Sign Co.
- c. Joe Hunt has edited the application for simplicity. He has also contacted the three current applicants to enquire if they would be willing to participate in publicity photos when they receive their finished plaques.
- d. Markarian Sign has their approved applications, and Joe Hunt will be in contact with them for a status update.
- e. Applications will be available at RYHN and at the Melrose Birthday celebration. A digital copy of the application can also be forwarded to attendees of RYHN after the event. Joe Hunt will provide Chair Egan with the digital files.

VI. ***Mary Stetson Clarke Historical Recognition Award Status Review***

- 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. The MHC members will review the documents related to this award at the May meeting and discuss promoting nominations for the 2nd presentation of this award.
- c. The general timeline is to plan to receive applications during the summer and review the nominations with the goal to present the award in September.

VII. ***Status of Open Commission Positions***

- a. *See 3.8.25 meeting minutes for more information on open MHC commission positions.*

- b. Cathy Giliberto and Geoffrey Andrews have been put forward by City Hall to fill the two open positions on the Melrose Historical Commission.
- c. The Mayor's office has indicated that their names will be put forward at the April City Council meeting with several intervening steps before they are officially appointed.
- d. Members of the MHC look forward to being joined by these two new members and are grateful for their willingness to serve.

VIII. *Other Business*

- a. Member Joe Hunt offered himself for the position of Vice Chairperson, vacant since the resignation of member Tom Champoux in February. Chair Egan delineated the role of Vice Chair. Joe Hunt discussed his qualifications as both a long-time member of the MHC and in his former role in his career at Raytheon. Members unanimously voted to approve Joe Hunt as Vice Chairperson.
- b. Chair Egan reviewed the steps for securing reimbursement of the payment for the VFW venue for RYHN with Darren Brown in Darren's role as Treasurer.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Egan at 8:15pm.