

MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY JUNE 2, 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, and Joseph Hunt. Darren Brown was 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 April 7, 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. *Introduce New Members of the Commission*

- a. *See 4.7.25 meeting minutes for more information on open MHC positions.*

- b. The Mayor's office is in the process of appointing two new members to fill the existing openings on the Melrose Historical Commission created by the recent departure of former Chair Marolda and former Vice Chair Champoux. Chair Egan has reached out to City Hall for an update on the status of the new members but has not yet received official word of their swearing-in.

III. ***April Research Your Home Night (RYHN) Recap***

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for a summary of Research Your Home Night (RYHN).*
- b. The most recent RYHN took place on Wednesday, April 9, 7-830pm at the VFW at 428 Main Street.
- c. There were approximately 34 homes represented among the registrants for this event and attendance was approximately 70 homeowners.
- d. Chair Egan delivered the digital PowerPoint presentation along with Joe Hunt. Special guest local historian Scott Macaulay attended along with his important collection of historic maps and city lists. Melrose Public Library also supplied reference texts from its Local History collection on loan for the evening.
- e. This event marked the first time RYHN took place at the Main St. VFW location. The event space worked very well for the event and the rental cost was covered by the donations received from attendees.
- f. Committee members discussed that the ample table layout for Scott Macaulay's documents was an improvement over past events. It was suggested to bring plastic table clothes for the next event to protect the documents.
- g. Rebecca Blumenthal will contact the venue to try to secure the space for the week of October 6th, 2025, preferably Wednesday October 8th.

IV. ***MHC 250th Anniversary of Nation Post***

- a. *See 4.7.25 meeting minutes for more information on the discussion to acknowledge the April 19th anniversary.*
- b. An essay highlighting the participation of citizenry of what today comprises Melrose in the Battle of Lexington and Concord in April 1775 was published via the MHC Facebook and Instagram pages to mark the anniversary. The post brought attention to participants from several neighborhoods of what was then North Malden and Stoneham and included images from historical maps, grave and commemorative markers, and contemporary neighborhoods. It was well received and widely shared online.

V. **Melrose 175th Birthday Celebration/ Timeline Recap**

- a. *See 4.7.25 meeting minutes for more information on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration.*
- b. The event was a success and was attended by the Lt. Governor and the DA as well as local dignitaries. Chair Egan reported that at any given time as many as 100 people were participating in the Memorial Hall event and cake cutting. Meanwhile other family-friendly events were taking place across the city, including the Beebe Estate and the Ell Pond Gazebo.
- c. The PowerPoint video loop created by Shane Egan was well-received. It included a timeline of 80 civic and cultural events over the course of Melrose's history. The timeline was also played on MMTV along with an introductory interview with Chair Egan. The timeline has also been added to the City of Melrose website.
- d. Joe Hunt also attended the event and promoted the Historical Plaque program.
- e. The commission discussed ways to share the digital timeline with a wider audience on its own social media pages.

VI. **Historic Home Plaque Program Update**

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program*
- b. Joe Hunt reported to the commission that Markarian Signs has the first three applications. Although there have been some difficulties with communication, Joe Hunt has ensured that the sign company has been able to successfully download the digital documents.
- c. Joe Hunt will provide them the 4th application this week and will take the opportunity to visit the company in person to verify that the signs will be completed in a timely manner.
- d. Members will circle back concerning a timeline for further program launch and promotion at the July meeting once it is confirmed that the vendor is moving forward.

VII. **Mary Stetson Clarke Historical Recognition Award 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. Members had previously discussed moving forward on a timeline enabling the presentation to the second recipient of this award at the 2025 Victorian Fair. To this end,

Chair Egan will proceed with the press release requesting nominations before the MHC's July meeting.

- c. Timeline: The request for nominations of deserving recipients will be published via the commission's social media sites next week and several more times before a July 31, 2025 deadline. The commission will plan to vote for a winning recipient at the August meeting and place the order for the plaque immediately thereafter.

VIII. ***Victorian Fair 2025***

- a. The MHC plans to once again promote itself and its mission at the Victorian Fair in September. Discussion included promoting the RYHN, Historic Plaque program, and the MSC Historical Recognition Award.
- b. Chair Egan will contact the Chamber of Commerce to secure a spot.
- c. Members discussed that the 2024 table location was near ideal.

IX. ***Social Media Brainstorming***

- a. Chair Egan discussed reinvigorating the MHC social media sites with targeted posts to ensure continued and increased community engagement to promote the commissions future events and programs.
- b. He urged members to keep aware of upcoming local and community anniversaries that can be spotlighted to highlight local civic organizations, historic locations, prominent citizens, etc.

X. ***Other Business***

None

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

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