

**MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY JULY 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, Darren Brown, Joseph Hunt and Cath Giliberto. There was one member of the public present.

**ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

The first order of business was to hold a moment of silence for Geoffrey Andrews who would have joined the Melrose Historical Commission this month if not for his untimely passing.

The second order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from June 2, 2025. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The third order of business was to open the forum for comments from the public. One member of the public was present, Sal Giliberto, however he had no comments.

**DISCUSSION**

- I. ***Review Public Comment Policy***
- II. ***Introduce New Member of the Commission***
  - a. *See 4.7.25 meeting minutes for more information on open MHC positions.*
  - b. The Mayor's office appointed two new members to fill the openings on the Melrose Historical Commission created by the recent departure of two members. Geoffrey Andrews of Melrose passed away in June.

- c. New member Cath Giliberto was in attendance for her first meeting. She introduced herself and described her interest in Melrose history. The committee still has one vacancy.

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

- a. *See 6.2.25 meeting minutes for a summary of the most recent Research Your Home Night (RYHN).*
- b. The date of October 8, 2025, for the next RYHN has been confirmed with the venue manager at the Melrose VFW at 428 Main St. The space is reserved from 6pm until 9pm to allow for set up and break down. These events are made possible by the donations of attendees that help to cover the cost of the venue rental.
- c. The event will be advertised closer October. There will be space for approximately 35 homes/70 attendees.
- d. The presentation will be reviewed at the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting for the benefit of new and existing members.
- e. George Biblios volunteered to take photos at the next RYHN.
- f. Chair Egan will confirm the date with the library and local historian Scott Macaulay to ensure there are reference materials available for attendees to peruse.

IV. ***MHC 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battle of Bunker Hill Post***

- a. *See 6.2.25 meeting minutes for more information on the discussion to acknowledge the MA250th commemorations.*
- b. An post highlighting the participation of citizenry of what today comprises Melrose in the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775 was published via the MHC Facebook and Instagram pages to mark the anniversary. The post brought attention to participants from several neighborhoods, highlighted by historic maps and photos. This post followed up on the previous post commemorating the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
- c. Rebecca Blumenthal noted that the two commemorative social media posts incorporated most known facts and tales that associated the City of Melrose to the events of the American Revolution.

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 followed up with Markarian Sign to ensure that current orders were not delayed. He is confident that the company will be able to process the orders. They have already created 5 plaques ordered by Melrose residents. They can meet a much higher volume as they have delivered near 100 plaques to Reading residents in a similar program. The owner is well-versed on making delivery and taking payment for the plaques. Joe Hunt is confident that Markarian Signs will be able to fulfill any future orders from Melrose residents.
- c. Chair Egan noted the MHC will be ramping up promotion of this opportunity in the next couple months. Discussed taking photos with new sign holders.
- d. George Biblios reiterated the benefit of contacting the early purchasers of these signs to use for promotion.

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

- a. *See 6.2.25 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual presentation of an honorary 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. MHC 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 has proceeded with the press release/social media posts requesting nominations. Chair Egan reviewed the details of this annual award with the new commission member.
- c. Timeline: The request for nominations of deserving recipients will be published via the commission's social media sites 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.

VII. ***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.
- c. Rebecca Blumenthal noted that the recent 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tower Plaza explosion post was well-received and took only a couple hours to research and post.
- d. Members brainstormed future topics including posts highlighting local veterans and the war memorials, the schools in conjunction with back-to-school, local businesses from days-gone-by, and the Prince Post of the VFW where the RYHN are held.
- e. Chair Egan encouraged members to be proactive in noting local anniversaries of significant events and producing more social media posts with brief content and interesting supporting visuals.

VIII. ***Victorian Fair 2025***

- a. The next Victorian Fair will take place on Sunday, September 7, 2025.
- b. The MHC plans to once again promote itself and its mission at the Victorian Fair. The table display will include the vintage photo boards and material promoting the historic home plaques, RYHN, and the MSC award.
- c. There are tentative plans to present the MSC award in conjunction with this event.
- d. Chair Egan has contacted the Chamber of Commerce and secured a spot. The booth is booked.

IX. ***Other Business***

None

**NEXT MEETING**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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