



CITY OF WATERTOWN
Historical Commission
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

Elise Loukas, Chair
Susan Steele, Member
Marilynne K. Roach, Member
Joseph Panto, Member
Matthew Walter, Member
Richard Glenn, Member
Edward G. McCourt, Member

Minutes: Thursday, April 11, 2024, Remote Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Historical Commission Members Present: Elise Loukas, Marilynne Roach, Edward McCourt, Richard Glenn, Susan Steele, Joseph Panto, Matthew Walter

Member(s) Absent: N/A

Public Present: David Russo

Staff Present: Larry Field, Senior Planner, Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

1. Acceptance of Minutes- February 28, 2024, Historical Commission Meeting.

The Historical Commission meeting on February 28th took place just two weeks before the March 14th HC meeting. Members determined they needed more time to review the minutes and asked for a continuance to the April 11, 2024, meeting.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: A motion was made by Walter to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2024, Historical Commission meeting as written. Panto seconded the motion.

Roll Call: All members agreed with the motion made by Walter.

2. Acceptance of Minutes- March 14, 2024, Historical Commission Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Roach to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2024, Historical Commission meeting as written. Glenn seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Walter abstained from the vote, as he did not attend the March 14, 2024, meeting. All members agreed with the motion made by McCourt.

3. Agent Report

Field reported that he continues to work in a supportive manner with Massachusetts Historical Commission on the Request for Qualifications for a new consultant. He hopes to have some news soon.

4. CPC Update

Walter reported that at the last meeting, Saltonstall Park, Walker Pond, Browne House were approved for funding as Requested, subject to City Council approval.

While members of the CPA were discussing the Scots Fence application submitted for \$300,000.00 by Mt. Auburn Cemetery, there was disagreement about the appropriate amount to award. The CPC approved a \$100,000 award to Mt. Auburn Cemetery, subject to City Council approval.

5. Tribute Thomas Melone, Long Time member of the Historical Commission and distinguished recipient of the 2023 Historical Resources Preservation Award.

Loukas reflected on Melone's service to the Historical Commission and clearly shared how much Melone deserved the distinguished 2023 Historical Resources Preservation Award. Loukas recalled his numerous gifts that he shared generously during his years of service to historic preservation. Melone had an intrepid style of investigation skills that included site visits to most every property prior to the hearing, venturing to sneak up driveways to snap the perfect photos pictures to study and share with his colleagues. He was a true asset to the group in making the most informed decisions about the historic and architectural assets of the city.

Steele recalled the nature of her special connection to Melone and his wife, who were her next-door neighbors. Steele once visited Melone in his second-floor home office and was impressed with the neat piles and piles of historical documentation, photographs and maps used in his tireless and tenacious mission as a well-informed, high caliber commissioner.

Roach recalled working with Melone both on the commission and during a time when we volunteered on a project for the Historical Society. Roach discovered Melone worked as a planner in Philadelphia earlier in his career, and his boss was a man named Mr. Bacon. One day at work, Mr. Bacon brought his young son to visit the office. It turned out Melone was working for the father of the future Hollywood actor Kevin Bacon.

Panto recalled his first evening attending a meeting as a member of the Historical Commission where he was seated on the right side of Melone. The very first evening they met, Melone welcomed Panto and introduced himself and made it a point of asking all about him. Melone would continue to take an interest in Panto at every meeting until the commission went remote during the pandemic. Panto recalled fondly that he knew he could rely on Melone for doing high quality investigative work for every public hearing.

David Russo, former Chair, and long-time member of the Historical Commission attended the meeting to participate in the tribute to Melone. He recalled how utterly fearless Melone was stepping down into dark stairwells, long narrow hallways, because he always had a plan to investigate as thoroughly as possible. He recalled when former member J. Jones asked Russo to investigate Melone for the purpose of recruiting him if he was interested enough. Russo was grateful to have been informed about how talented and well suited Melone was for a seat on the Historical Commission.

McCourt recalled walking up to greet Melone and his wife when they arrived at the Historic Preservation Awards in 2023 having no idea Melone was there to receive the Historic Preservation Award. McCourt recalled how utterly humble Melone was considering his many talents.

Loukas reminisced that when Melone stepped down from his seat this last fall, and admitted she was very sad to lose him. Loukas respected his decision to retire from duty at that time even considering her anticipated sadness at seeing him go. She said she hopes Melone continues to guide us and watch over us as we continue protecting the architectural and historical assets of the city for years to come.

Motion: McCourt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Walter seconded the motion.

Roll Call: All members of the commission were polled, and they all agreed with the motion made by McCourt to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.