

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION:

Chair: Lisa Harrington

Secretary: Rotates each meeting amongst committee members

Committee Members:

NAME	EXPERTISE	REPRESENTATION	TERM EXPIRATION	
Michael Chesson	Historian	Belmont Historical Society	2024	
Seth Clark	Architect			Resigned
Lisa Harrington	Architectural Conservator		2022	Chair
Lauren Meier	Landscape Architect	BSLA	2023	Resigned
Carol Moyles	Landscape Architect	BSLA	2023	
Drew Nealon	Realtor		2024	
Michael Smith	Architect		2023	Resigned
Carl Solander	Architect	BSA	2024	
Nushin Yazdi	Architect	Resident Pleasant Street Historic District	2024	

Alternate Committee Members:

NAME	EXPERTISE	REPRESENTATION	TERM EXPIRATION
Stefan Ahlblad	Architect	BSA	2024

Purpose and Duties:

The Historic District Commission (HDC), appointed by the Select Board (SB), is charged with reviewing modifications to properties located within the Town's four local historic districts as well as those properties on which the Town holds preservation restrictions. The HDC offers advice to those property owners considering alterations to their historic properties. The HDC holds public hearings to review proposed projects on protected properties to determine the appropriateness of such alterations and issues Certificates of Appropriateness or Non-Applicability to those projects that meet the HDC's Guidelines. The HDC also holds public hearings related to demolition applications for buildings subject to the Demolition Delay Bylaw and addresses Town-wide historic preservation issues. As part of the Town's 1999 Memorandum of Agreement with McLean Hospital regarding the rezoning of the McLean Hospital campus, the HDC acts as the historic preservation authority regarding changes proposed for the exterior of historic buildings, historic landscapes, and historic landscape elements of the hospital campus and its adjacent McLean zones 1A, 1B, 2, 3 and 4 as well as land and historic resources that were transferred to the Town (McLean Barn and Lone Tree Hill open space). The HDC serves as the principal local contact

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

for the Massachusetts Historical Commission and responds to Section 106 notifications. The HDC also serves as the Town's Historical Commission, advising the town on matters related to historic resources in Belmont, including buildings, structures and landscapes. The HDC appoints members to two other Town committees: Community Preservation Committee and Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill.

Summary of Activities and Accomplishments:

From January until September of 2021, administrative support was provided by Christine Zale in the Office of Community Development; from May until October of 2021 administrative support was also provided by Robert Hummel, Senior Planner in the Office of Community Development. In November and December of 2021, administrative support was provided by Gabriel Distler, Staff Planner in the Office of Community Development. Seth Clarke (full member), Drew Nealon (full member) and Stefan Ahlblad (alternate member) were appointed to the HDC in July 2021. Lauren Meier, Michael Smith, and Seth Clarke resigned from the HDC in the Fall of 2021. Carl Solander and Nushin Yazdi became full voting members.,

McLean District, Zone 3 Overlay Language

The HDC developed language and made recommendations to the Planning Board for the McLean Zone 3 Overlay District.

Reviewed thirty (30) applications for projects within the Pleasant Street Historic District

One of the HDC's most critical functions is technical assistance to property owners and project review and approval in the four local historic districts (Pleasant Street, Common Street, Richardson Farm and Thaddeus Frost Local Historic Districts). In 2021, HDC conducted thirty public hearings for applications for Certificate of Appropriateness in the Pleasant Street Historic District. The Commission also reviewed and approved one project related to the Town's Historic Accessory Building Preservation Bylaw.

Imposed Demolition Delay Bylaw for one (1) Property on the List of Significant Buildings

Goals for 2022:

- Continue timely review, advice, and action on applications and requests for technical assistance from property owners in the four historic districts;
- Provide review, advice and action as needed related to other properties in Belmont with preservation restrictions and/or agreements;
- Provide timely response to Section 106 notifications as they are received;
- Continue participation on the Community Preservation Committee, providing historic preservation input on projects and applications;
- Continue collaboration with the Land Management Committee on preservation of the McLean Barn and stewardship of the historic open space;
- Provide input to the Planning Board and other committees related to proposed zoning changes and other matters affecting historic resources in Belmont;
- Participate and provide input into major Town capital projects (Community Path, etc.);
- Conduct a review of and develop potential amendments as necessary for the General Bylaws;

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

- Update the HDC's Design Guidelines;
- Maintain and enhance HDC website; and
- Continue to integrate files and coordinate administrative responsibilities with OCD.
- Amend and make permanent Demolition Delay Bylaw at Spring of 2022 Town Meeting
- Identify and recruit new HDC alternate members
- Release Belmont Light Building RFP
-

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Harrington, Chair
Historic District Commission