**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION:**

Co-Chair: Lauren Meier  
Co-Chair: Lisa Harrington  
Secretary: Rotates each meeting amongst committee members

**Committee Members:**
- Michael Chesson  
- Kathleen Fahey  
- Tracy Marquis  
- Theresa McCarthy  
- Elizabeth (Sue) Pew  
- Carl Solander  
- Michael Smith - Alternate  
- Nushin Yazdi - Alternate  
- Richard Cheek – Emeritus  
- Lydia Phippen Ogilby – Emeritus

**Purpose and Duties:**
The Historic District Commission (HDC), appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS), is charged with reviewing additions and 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 making alterations to their historic properties. The HDC holds public hearings to review proposed projects at protected properties to determine the appropriateness of such alterations, and issues Certificates of Appropriateness to those projects that meet the HDC’s guidelines. The HDC advises the Inspector of Buildings with respect to the demolition applications of the 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 the historic buildings, the historic landscapes, and/or the historic landscape elements of the hospital campus as well as historic resources that were transferred to the Town (McLean Barn and Lone Tree Hill open space). The HDC also serves as the Town’s Historical Commission, advising on general matters related to historic resources in Belmont including both buildings and landscapes. Spencer Gober serves as the Town’s Staff Planner and administrative support to the HDC.

**Summary of Activities and Accomplishments:**

*Coordinated with the BOS and finalized the Demolition Delay Bylaw Appeals Process* which provided property owners a process for appealing inclusion of their property on the List of Significant Buildings (the List). In total, six appeals applications were received in 2017, and only two appeals were granted by the BOS during the appeal process, which concluded in spring 2018. Due to the collaborative effort between the HDC and the property owner, one appeal resulted in only the partial removal of the commercial block from the List.

*Secured approval of the Thaddeus Frost House Historic District* at Town Meeting, which was done at the request of the homeowner. Establishment of the District marks the first single-property district in Belmont, and will ensure that this historic asset (located at 291 Brighton Street) remains intact for future generations.

*Secured Town Meeting approval for a Community Preservation Committee application,* in partnership with the Land Management Committee and the Office of Community Development (OCD), for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to stabilize and mothball the historic McLean (Brick) Barn.
Released a RFP, in partnership with the Land Management Committee and OCD, for architectural services for the stabilization and mothballing of the historic McLean Barn. A portion of the CPA funds received were used to fund this effort.

Participated in the Town’s effort to rehabilitate and expand the historic Police Station through representation on the Department of Public Works/Belmont Police Department Building Committee.

Coordinated with the Belmont High School Building Committee to review and approve the demolition of the White Field House based on the HDC’s determination that it is not a distinguished example of its architectural style and that it sits in an isolated location without historical or geographic context.

Received and responded to two Section 106 notifications for cell antenna projects proposed for both the Belmont Center and the Waverley Square commercial centers.

Reviewed 15 applications for projects within the Pleasant Street Historic District.

Goals for 2019:

- Release an Invitation to Bid and procure a contractor to execute the scope of work needed to mothball and stabilize the McLean Barn; and, continue collaboration with the Land Management Committee on reuse options for the Barn;
- Continue timely review, advice, and action on applications and requests from property owners in the four historic districts;
- Respond to Section 106 notifications as they are received;
- Participate and provide input into major Town capital projects (Police Station, High School, etc.);
- Explore ideas and options (other than traditional historic districts) to retain neighborhood character and protect historic resources;
- Conduct a review of and develop potential amendments as necessary for the General Bylaws;
- Update the HDC’s Design Guidelines;
- Maintain and enhance HDC website;
- Continue to integrate files with OCD; and,
- Continue to coordinate administrative responsibilities with OCD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Meier, Co-Chair
Lisa Harrington, Co-Chair
Historic District Commission