

## MEETING MINUTES

### MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 14, 2017

Chairman Maresco called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. On behalf of Secretary Galvin, he welcomed the Commissioners. Chairman Maresco next addressed the audience, thanking them for attending and participating. He emphasized the importance of hearing from people about the proposed National Register nominations, saying that during these meetings, it means a lot for the Commissioners to see audience members from the areas in which properties are nominated. For those individuals who may not have attended commission meetings in the past, Chairman Maresco explained the structure of the meeting and when in the process the public could address the commission.

Chairman Maresco then turned to the first item on the agenda, **approval of the March 8, 2017 meeting minutes**. He called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner Crissman. Hearing no questions, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco then turned to the first item on the agenda, the National Register nominations, and called for any recusals. Hearing none, he turned the meeting over to the Director of the National Register Program, Betsy Friedberg, who began the National Register presentations.

The first nomination presented was for the **Historic Resources Associated with Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Americans** in the city of **Boston**. The context and the **Quincy School** nomination were prepared by preservation consultants Neil Larson of Larson Fisher Associates, and Kathryn Grover. Ms. Friedberg noted that this project was a joint effort, funded through a NPS Underrepresented Communities grant awarded to MHC and our community partner, the Chinese Historical Society of New England or CHSNE, in an effort to diversify the National Register program. We are most grateful for CHSNE's involvement in this project, as well as the input and knowledge of numerous experts and scholars. MHC staff received letters of support from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (owner of the Quincy School), the Boston Landmarks Commission, Historic Boston Inc., and the Boston Preservation Alliance. The project is featured on the website of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Consultant Neil Larson then presented the context statement.

This context statement provides a detailed overview of the history of Chinese immigration into Boston and the development of its Chinese-American community as it was focused in Chinatown. It addresses the physical development of Chinatown from its settlement in the 1870s into the present day and associates extant properties with this

history. Chinatown is a residential, commercial, iconographic place that represents the significance of the enduring and evolving Chinese American presence in Boston.

South Cove between 1805 and 1875, before Chinese immigration, was already a fully developed part of the city created by land making in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Beach St.). It was a crowded and noisy immigrant enclave near the docks, railroad and industry, a typical entry point for new immigrants. Harvard Street was built up with two-story brick row houses, some of which survive today in parts of Chinatown. In addition to having significant associations with the history of Chinatown, these houses from an earlier period have an architectural significance all their own.

The first male immigrants found their way to Harrison Ave. between Essex and Beach streets. Nearby Ping On Alley is believed to have been where the first Chinese men to arrive camped, but we could find no physical or documentary evidence to support this. Rather, it was on Oxford Place, behind Harrison Ave. where some of the earliest residences was documented. A settlement also was started at Scollay Square, near present-day City Hall, but it was short-lived. Since the initial Chinese community was comprised of men, residences were like dormitories not apartments.

Laundries & restaurants were excluded from most conventional occupations, and the Chinese men opened businesses to meet their particular cultural needs as well as get around exclusionary immigration laws. Chinese groceries, tea shops, apothecaries, domestic goods stores, and restaurants had multiple partners, as businessmen with financial interests in the United States were permitted to travel more freely. Most of the Chinese population at that time was employed in laundries scattered in a widening network throughout the city; this was one occupation not closed to them. This growing cadre of laundrymen provided a clientele for Chinese merchants. The language barrier resulted in the early appearance of printing offices.

Just as a Chinatown was forming on Harrison Street at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the city implemented a street-widening project that made no excuses about its intention to “clean-up” the Chinese “slum” that removed fronts from buildings on both sides of the street. Nevertheless, the community maintained these buildings and the neighborhoods continued. A few years later, an elevated railway was built on Harrison and Beach streets further disrupting the Chinese settlement.

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Chinatown expanded and became more permanent. Laundries proliferated as more men made their way into Boston--most of them came home to Chinatown each night. Chinatown also became a tourist attraction for cultural enthusiasts. Restaurants were frequented by people working in the area looking for inexpensive lunches, theatergoers, and those attracted to the exotic place. Restaurant interiors and exterior signage were designed to appeal to non-Chinese. Meanwhile, the old townhouses occupied by the Chinese were adapted to their mixed use and domestic life, and the indigenous brick row house was transformed into a Chinese American building. As businesses prospered, the re-patterning of the extant architecture became more intense: the number prominently displayed on this Tyler Street sign is said to have

been done so that the address could be discerned from the elevated train. A few new buildings were erected by the more ambitious businessmen, such as Si Woo. The upper-story porches became a distinguishing element in Chinese-American commercial architecture.

This magnificent building was torn down to expand the telephone switching station on the corner of Essex and Harrison.

Business and Family Associations, essentially mutual aid organizations, were created to fill the void left by mainstream institution. Chinatown has a range of headquarter buildings, from houses to those purpose-built, all with references to upper-level porches. The Goon Association is the most elaborate.

Funeral processions and burials were important cultural rituals preserved in Chinatown. Burials took place at Mt. Hope Cemetery, in an area allotted in the very rear of cemetery near the potter's field. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), made up of representatives from family associations and other civic groups, managed burials and arranged for transfer of remains back to China. A large section of Mt. Hope Cemetery contains burials made after 1940 and not exhumed. The Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) formed in the early 1990s during an effort to restore the cemetery after years of neglect. A tremendous volunteer effort took place to identify people buried there and organize a record.

With the expansion of the garment buildings, scores of rowhouses were lost. The new buildings were out of scale with the Chinatown community and the character of community. Yet, Chinese merchants took over the buildings' lower levels and integrated them into street life. Later, Chinese women would find jobs in the garment industry.

Ms. Friedberg then again introduced Neil Larson, who presented the nomination for the **Quincy Grammar School** in the City of **Boston**. Ms. Friedberg first noted that several community meetings have been held regarding this nomination, and CHSNE posted draft copies of the nomination on their website and solicited comments, which have been uniformly positive. We have received letters of support from CCBA (owner), whose board voted unanimously in support of the listing of their property, the Quincy Grammar School, in the National Register; also letters have been received from the Boston Landmarks Commission, which voted in support of the nomination on May 23, Historic Boston Inc., and the Boston Preservation Alliance.

This is the first individual property being nominated under the contest of Historic Resources Associated with Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Americans in the City of Boston. The Quincy Grammar School is significant as a distinctive example of mid-19th century progressive school architecture that served as the model of educational reforms introduced by Horace Mann and other educators in Boston and beyond. It also is significant as a historic institutional property associated with Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans in the City of Boston.

The first Quincy Grammar School building, built in 1848, was designed by Gridley J.S. Bryant, the most prominent architect in Boston, who designed the plans based on progressive educational principals developed by Horace Mann and adopted by the Boston Board of Education. The four classrooms on three floors and an assembly room on the top were destroyed by fire in 1859 and immediately rebuilt to original plans. This present building essentially exists today as rebuilt in 1859, except that the fourth floor and roof removed after hurricane damage in 1938.

After nearly 100 years as a boys' grammar school in a working-class neighborhood, the Quincy School began accepting the many Chinese boys and girls who either immigrated to the U.S. or were born here after exclusion. By the time it closed in 1976, over 90% of the students were Chinese American.

The annex was built in 1913 for technical training. In 1983 the city transferred the title to the school to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England, which rehabilitated it and repurposed it to serve a multitude of Chinese-American civic and cultural groups and their activities, most of which preserve and celebrate the Chinese language and traditional art and culture.

The next nomination presented was for the **Columbia Road-Bellevue Street in Dorchester**. MacRostie Historic Advisors were the preservation consultants for John Cruz III and Wayne @ Columbian LLC; Preservation consultant Roysin Younkin of Macrostie presented the nomination.

The district is composed of twenty-eight residential buildings, one carriage house, four garages, and one commercial building constructed between 1840 and 1928 along Columbia Road just south of Upham's Corner. The majority of buildings were constructed between 1894 and 1914 with a second wave of development occurring in the mid-late 1920s, in the Colonial Revival architectural style.

The district is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the transformation of Dorchester from an early suburb to a bustling urban neighborhood. The district is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a well-preserved collection of Colonial Revival multi-family residential buildings.

The period of significance is from 1840 to 1967.

The William H. Sayward House and the William B Callender House are the oldest buildings in the district. Their construction dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, shortly after rail lines were introduced to Dorchester. The railroads initiated the transformation of Dorchester from a rural farming community to an early suburb.

Columbia Road continued to be developed with large, single-family houses through the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; it was widened to accommodate electric streetcar lines in 1897, a project that spurred many property owners to put large tracts of land up for sale. These

properties were attractive to speculative developers who recognized a new market for multi-family apartment buildings that would serve streetcar commuters. Between 1901 and 1929, apartment buildings sprung up all along Columbia Road.

The first multi-family buildings constructed in the district were wood-frame apartment buildings. These quickly gave way to brick apartment buildings. By 1910, three quarters of the eastern side of Columbia Road was developed with eight new brick apartment buildings varying in size from six to nineteen units.

The first residents of the new apartment buildings were middle-class renters employed as clerks, chemists, accountants, teachers, police officers, merchants, salesmen, milliners, and stenographers. A few families employed servants and several rented extra rooms to boarders. These residents were typically American-born, from Massachusetts and other northeastern states. The few families who were born outside the U.S. were generally from Canada. Advertisements for one building in the district described the location as “an all American neighborhood.”

New construction in the district stalled during the country’s involvement in World War I. The final wave of development occurred between 1925 and 1928 and introduced one single-family house and three large apartment buildings containing fourteen to thirty-five units on the western side of Columbia Road.

Building names like “Priscilla Court,” “the Alpine,” and “Columbia Manor” projected colonial lineage, lofty serenity, and elite residences, and attracted a class of renters in keeping with those who were well established in the neighborhood.

Many of the apartment units in the district were reconfigured during the 1950s and 1960s, shrinking the original apartment size and allowing a greater number of residents to occupy the buildings. Many buildings doubled their original occupancy between 1954 and 1968. These changes ushered in a new class of renters as smaller apartments were more affordable and less desirable to those who preceded them.

The most active period of the development of the district, 1894-1928, occurred at the peak of the popularity of the Colonial Revival architectural style. Characteristic Colonial Revival features found in the district include bow-fronted, symmetrical facades, accentuated entrances, quoining, and classical detailing including columns, pilasters, applied ornament, and ornate entablatures crowning the buildings.

The enduring popularity of the Colonial Revival style explains its pervasive use by speculative builders in the development of the district. Its appeal would have been especially popular among the class of residents sought for the district. Apartment building names like the Commonwealth, the Pilgrim, and Priscilla Court added emphasis to the colonial derivation of the forms.

In 2016, the Cruz Development Corporation rehabilitated the G.L. Davidson Apartments, the Cora B. White Apartments, the Joseph Klein Apartments, and the Longford for use as

affordable housing using state and federal historic tax credits. The renovations aimed to address issues of deferred maintenance on the exterior and interior of these buildings. All work met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

The next nomination presented was for the **Rocky Neck Historic District in the City of Gloucester**; the applicants are the City of Gloucester, a Certified Local Government, and the Gloucester Historical Commission. Wendy Frontiero and Kathleen Kelly Broomer are the consultants who prepared the nomination, and Kathy will present the nomination. Ms. Friedberg noted that there have been two public informational meetings, most recently May 19. The district has a total of 211 owners; MHC has received objections from 32 property owners, or about 15% of the owners.

Rocky Neck Historic District in Gloucester occupies the small peninsula that juts into Gloucester Harbor from the mainland of East Gloucester. Originally an island connected to the mainland by a sandbar, Rocky Neck was developed after construction of a causeway in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Meeting Criteria A, B & C at the local and state levels, Rocky Neck is significant in the areas of architecture, art, entertainment/ recreation, industry, maritime history, religion, and social history.

Encompassing one of the oldest working art colonies in the United States, Rocky Neck possesses a rugged character in its landscape and working waterfront that shaped the district's development from ca. 1829 to 1967. The architecture on Rocky Neck varies widely in scale, degree of elaboration and style, although Greek Revival and Victorian styles predominate. Some houses are small scale cottages with little surface decoration. Historic homes of fishermen and tradesmen are concentrated at the southern end of the peninsula near the causeway and Wonson Cove.

Residential buildings on higher ground tended to be more elaborately detailed, often built by businessmen and industrialists, notably associated with Rocky Neck's earliest and most prominent families. The Greek Revival cottage at 36 Rocky Neck Avenue, with its acorn-shaped dentils that are distinctive to East Gloucester, appears to be the work of builder Charles Boynton. The Amos Rackliffe House is among the more substantial interpretations of the Italianate style at Rocky Neck.

In 1863, James Tarr and Augustus Wonson began manufacturing at Rocky Neck copper-based anti-fouling paint for ships' bottoms. Nationally known, the Tarr & Wonson Company built a new plant in the 1870s downhill from Wonson's house at the western tip of Rocky Neck, adding buildings to the plant into the 1890s. The paint works is the dominant landmark of Rocky Neck when viewed from the harbor and downtown.

Rocky Neck attracted artists as early as 1844, beginning with Gloucester-born luminist painter Fitz Henry Lane, who resided across the inner harbor from Rocky Neck and whose presence in Gloucester drew noted artists to the area in the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, celebrated New York-based realist

Edward Hopper made several visits to Gloucester; Hopper's watercolor rendering of the Gardner Wonson House in 1923 played a pivotal role in his career transition from commercial illustrator to painter.

Rocky Neck's artist colony expanded as part of the larger artist community centered at East Gloucester, with more artists establishing studios in wharf buildings, mounting exhibits, forming professional alliances to further common objectives, and offering formal art instruction. Among the so-called "late stayers" who remained at Rocky Neck beyond the summer season was Augustus Buhler, whose former studio is the best-preserved of its type at Rocky Neck. Buhler sold his iconic oil painting of a Gloucester fisherman, *Man at the Wheel* (1902), to the Gloucester-based Gorton fisheries, which adopted the image as its trademark insignia.

Summer recreation and tourism were intertwined with the artists' colony at Rocky Neck, where the rugged terrain precluded construction of the mammoth summer hotels seen at Eastern Point and the Back Shore. Here, summer residents stayed in boarding houses, at the Rockaway House (now considerably altered as condominiums), or at the Rocky Neck Guest House, close to the coves on the south side of Rocky Neck, where a yacht club was quartered before World War I.

The population at Rocky Neck was of sufficient size after the Civil War to support separate public school and chapel buildings on Wonson Street. Augustus Wonson had the Carpenter Gothic-style Giles Chapel constructed in 1877 for the Baptist Church and Sabbath School at Rocky Neck, naming the society for his deceased sister, Lydia Giles, and her husband. Later used as a summer residence and art gallery in the late 20th century, Giles Chapel was acquired and rehabilitated with Community Preservation funds in 2013-2014 by the nonprofit Rocky Neck Arts Colony, Inc. to serve as a cultural center at Rocky Neck. The Rocky Neck or Wonson School was converted to an art gallery in 1931 with the addition of the current triple-shed dormer, skylights, and massive stone chimney and fireplace.

Aside from the Tarr & Wonson paint works, industrial and commercial uses in the district are concentrated on Rocky Neck Avenue overlooking Smith's Cove on the north side of the peninsula. Two of the earliest industrial buildings in the district are the wood-frame Walen Wharf Building, clad with pressed metal siding installed ca. 1893, and, attached to its left side, the Wonson & Story Building. Among the intact buildings on pilings over the water is a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century fish house.

Rocky Neck boasts the oldest continuously operating marine railways in the country. Now known as Gloucester Marine Railways Corporation, its predecessor was established in 1859 to service the fleet of the James G. Tarr & Brothers fisheries. Due to a fire that destroyed ten buildings in 1909, and a gradual reduction in the size of the area devoted to industrial use from the 1920s through the 1940s, no marine railways buildings dating to the district's period of significance are known to survive, aside from this office building and attached storage building.

Twentieth-century residential architecture is relatively uncommon on Rocky Neck. Examples include the residence of Gloucester lumber dealer Charles Nauss (1926), unique in the district as a Colonial Revival-style suburban estate of brick construction.

The next nomination presented was for the **Davenport Estate Historic District in Milton**. The nomination was prepared by Claire Dempsey with graduate students in the Preservation Studies Program, Boston University; the nomination was prepared on behalf of the Mary M. B. Wakefield Trust, owners of the Davenport Estate. Claire Dempsey will present the nomination.

The Davenport Estate is a 22-acre property near the intersection of Brush Hill Road and Blue Hill Avenue at the west end of Milton, Massachusetts, a suburban community in Norfolk County, South of Boston. It is the historic core of a property that served as the seat of the same family for nearly three centuries, whose holdings grew in size over the 18th and early 19th century, but lost its primary agricultural function and shrank in size later in the 19th century. This significant open space includes a total of twenty-three contributing resources: 11 buildings, 8 structures, and 4 sites. The components of this landscape can be clearly linked to each of the eight generations who lived here.

The property was first developed as a family farm, beginning with the arrival in Milton of John and Naomi Davenport in 1707, succeeded there by their son Samuel and his family and their grandson Samuel and his family. The primary surviving artifact from this period is the Farmhouse, probably first built between 1725 and 1748, a very complex building that was originally a single story in height, with one or two rooms on either side of the center chimney. Later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the building was raised to two stories in two phases, first on the west, then on the east.

The property entered a new phase of development as a gentleman's farm in the fourth generation, when Isaac Davenport took over the property in 1794 and lived here with his wife Mary May and their daughters.

A Boston merchant, Isaac Davenport transformed the family's homestead with the construction of the genteel Mansion including fashionable details inside and out, an ample plan with a generous center hall and four main rooms on each floor, and significant building fabric surviving throughout.

Isaac assembled the large property of 145 acres, documented in a plot plan of 1828, and many of the field patterns illustrated here can still be traced on the land today. The carpenters' shed may also survive from this period. Research has also uncovered the members of the household staff and tenant farmers, including the African American Cotton family.

The Davenport heirs eventually divided the estate among themselves in 1865, gradually selling the outer fields, which were then developed as country and suburban estates of the new borderland. But the central core, reduced to about 50 acres, remained in family

hands, home to Isaac Davenport Hayward and transformed from an agricultural enterprise toward a more ornamental version of rural life. Hayward undertook a gentle Victorian remodeling of the property in the early 1860s, with plans and specifications provided by the architect William Pitt Preble Longfellow, who for a time was in partnership with one of Hayward's cousins, Morris Dorr. The most significant artifact from this period may be the Carriage House, and Longfellow's drawings survive.

During the 20th century, members of the Hayward, Cunningham, and Binney families occupied the property primarily as a summer residence, and these families came to emphasize the property's connection to the colonial past. During Mary Cunningham's ownership, maps suggest that some of the major outbuildings were dismantled, and the Red Cottage was converted into a dwelling through at least three phases of construction and remodeling. At this time another round of remodeling was undertaken at the Mansion house, by the Colonial Revivalist James T. Kelley. When Henry Binney, his wife Alberta, and their daughter Mary May Davenport Binney, known as Polly, occupied the property during the middle years of the century, older outbuildings from their Canton farm were moved here, including the Staff Cottage, the Henhouse, and the Sheep Shed, and the Root Cellar was added at about this time. Additional remodeling was also done at the mansion house, including the remodeling of the rear library to match the front parlor, from designs by Phillip Richardson. Alberta and Polly remodeled the Farmhouse adding its Colonial Revival finish and a garage.

It is Polly's hand we see in the gardens, orchards, and further landscapes. After attending the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women in the 1930s, Polly turned to her families' property, adding a series of garden rooms on the Terraces. Although Polly's interests were broad, she was particularly interested in woody plants, and it is her work with the Kousa dogwood that is best known. She also added the Summer House to the front Garden and small garden service buildings near the house, the Greenhouse and the Mist and Pump Houses. Polly added land to her holdings in 1974 to provide a buffer from some surrounding development, and toward the end of her life established the Mary May Binney Wakefield Charitable Trust that holds the property today and operates it as a historic site and arboretum.

The Davenport Estate meets Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the town of Milton and the broader Boston basin, tracking changes in agricultural practice and in settlement form as the region's density and character changed over three centuries. The Davenport Estates landscape includes buildings, structures, fields, and gardens that are well-preserved examples of key types that have been identified as emblematic of the periods of their construction and use. These resources reflect the unfolding of the family's relationship with the land and the community, as the site shifted from farm to country place to suburb, supporting its significance under Criterion C. The property and its collections are still under study as part of the Wakefield Trust's programs in participatory learning, and there is an ongoing archaeology program, making it additionally eligible under Criterion D.

The Davenport Estate exhibits significance at the local level, and its buildings and cultural landscape retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. At the Davenport Estate, preservationists can examine a complex and layered cultural landscape, where ongoing research, in the field and in archives, will continue to improve and refine our understanding of the history of the Boston basin.

The next nomination presented is the **Manchaug Village Historic District** in the **Town of Sutton**. The nomination was prepared using FY15 – Survey and Planning Grant funds awarded to the Town of Sutton and its Historical Commission. The nomination was prepared by preservation consultant Kathleen Kelly Broomer, who will present the nomination. Three public informational meetings have been held in relation to this nomination, most recently on June 8. A letter of support has been received from the owners of Mill Number 1.

Manchaug Village Historic District is located on the north branch of the Mumford River in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, about 4 miles from Sutton Center, 12 miles from Worcester, and 32 miles from Providence, Rhode Island. Manchaug is the largest and most intact of Sutton's historic manufacturing villages and, though at some distance from the town center, Main Street in Sutton is located at Manchaug.

Meeting Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register at the local level, the district has a period of significance from ca. 1803 to 1966. The areas of significance are architecture, ethnic heritage, industry, recreation, religion, and social history.

Manchaug Village Historic District preserves an important cotton textile manufacturing center with resources that recall its early 19<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural roots and later expansion into a thriving village of diverse business interests by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The village illustrates the influence of Rhode Island industrialists on the transformation of the Blackstone Valley in Worcester County from a rural to industrial economy. Various Providence-based business partnerships operated the Manchaug Company from its establishment in 1826 to bankruptcy in the 1920s. Much of the company town's early development occurred from 1848 to 1870 under the direction of resident superintendent James Cunliff.

In 1873, brothers Benjamin Brayton Knight and Robert Knight of Providence acquired the Manchaug Company, and for the next fifty years the Manchaug mills produced cotton goods under the company's trademark Fruit of the Loom label, as B. B. & R. Knight became known as the largest textile manufacturing company in the world under a single ownership.

The village had one wood-frame mill and three sprawling complexes of cut granite mills. The Mill No. 1 complex is shown here; the other mill locations exist today as archaeological sites.

Near Mill No. 1 at the upper end of the district are some of the earliest examples of company-built housing. The brick house is the only survivor of a row of three known in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as Brick Lane. The gambrel houses illustrate an important pre-1850 mill house form that has also been identified in North Providence, Pawtucket, Lincoln, and Smithfield, Rhode Island.

The company-built Baptist Church is one of the district's best examples of the Greek Revival style and the first church built at Manchaug. The building is currently in residential use. Occupying high ground overlooking Mill No. 1, Manchaug School maintains Victorian eclectic detailing with a high degree of integrity, though the building is currently vacant and its future unclear. The Town of Sutton purchased the building from B. B. & R. Knight in 1892, and continued a public school here until 1973; the local American Legion post acquired it in 1975.

A second phase of mill construction after the Civil War greatly expanded the manufacturing capability of the Manchaug Company, and with it created a need for more employee housing. This housing reflected the hierarchy within the mill company, from the superintendent, to overseers, to mill operatives. The Mill Superintendent's house is the most highly ornamented dwelling in the village, displaying an eclectic blend of Second Empire, Italianate, and Victorian Gothic features, and occupies a prominent corner site at the principal intersection in the company town. Overseer houses on Maple Street were built close to a new mill complex on Manchaug Road, completed in 1868.

Most numerous of the company houses were double cottages or duplexes. New Village, with 19, is the largest single development of employee housing at Manchaug. The eight-bay, gable-roofed duplex form became the most common arrangement for two-family dwellings throughout the company town. A smaller development was built in the 1870s at Upper Tuckerville, near Upper Tucker Pond and Dam. These houses are located on Putnam Hill Road and Ledge Street.

The Manchaug Company Store and Community Hall is the only cut-granite building in the village that did not serve an industrial purpose. The building housed, at various times, a general store, meat and vegetable market, the village library, and the post office, while the upstairs meeting hall served as a community gathering space, polling place, and the location for Masses and parish activities of St. Anne Roman Catholic Church from 1924 to 1951. A store remained here until after World War II, and the building is still in commercial use, overlooking the mill pond associated with Mill No. 1 on Main Street.

Vital components of the engineered landscape at Manchaug Village include three mill privileges and associated structures. Most intact are the lower and upper privileges, which retain their mill ponds.

To ensure a plentiful water power supply year-round, the Manchaug Company also secured interests in ponds and reservoirs up to three miles from Manchaug for use as back-up water storage. The Manchaug Company Trench (ca. 1865) was one brief undertaking to convey water from other industrial interests in nearby Douglas to the south. Upper Tucker Pond on the north was part of the back-up system; its dam is included in the district for its associations with a flood in 1936 that destroyed much of the middle privilege and Mill No. 2.

The millpond, dam, and spillway of the lower privilege are a scenic amenity at Manchaug and the focus of a new trail with informational signage along the Mumford River. The Manchaug Trench, abandoned for water supply purposes in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, survives as an open channel and informal trail between residential parcels.

During spring rains in 1936, Upper Tucker Pond Dam was breached at its northern, or left, end, overwhelming the water supply system below, including the headrace leading to the Mill No. 2 complex.

The resulting flood undermined the foundations of Mill No. 2, rendering the complex unusable, destroyed two bridges over the Mumford River, and damaged houses downstream. By that time, Mill No. 2 housed the New England and east coast distribution center for a Chicago-based rag-sorting business, and 2,000 bales of rags washed downstream in the flood.

The large wood-frame building with clerestory roofline in the distance is one of the earliest Manchaug mills, converted to residential use in the 1850s and replaced, in 1970, with a new building for the Manchaug Branch Library.

Only the Manchaug Company Office survives from the Mill No. 2 parcel. Remaining buildings in the complex were destroyed by the flood and the Hurricane of 1938. This Second Empire-style building has acquired additional importance in the village as the location of the Manchaug post office since at least 1950.

District boundaries also include most of the 90-acre Manchaug Company farm. Thirteen of the fifteen mill villages owned by B. B. & R. Knight in Rhode Island and Massachusetts had company farms. At Manchaug, the boss farmer's house was originally built to house the keeper of the company store in the village. Farm operations encompassed the company horse stable and cow barn, a slaughterhouse, two small quarries, and all wood-cutting and teaming activities. The scope of the farm facilitated the self-sufficiency of the company town. Outbuildings no longer survive, though building foundations and evidence of the small-scale quarry activity remain. An organic farm operates on much of the farm's southern acreage today, and the northern section was recently conveyed to the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation as an addition to the Sutton State Forest.

Though the Manchaug Company was the largest employer, Manchaug Village was not exclusively a company town. Nearly a third of the properties in the district were owned

and developed by other parties. They include houses at the eastern edge of the district on Whitins Road, and components of the Manchaug Water District, formed after World War II when the water supply to the mill buildings was divided from the water supply to households. The largest concentration of non-company properties is on “the Flats” at the southern end of Main Street and adjacent Mumford Road.

Some of the historic resources in these areas recall the district’s agricultural history, principally associated with the Darling and Morse families. The Burdon House, moved to Manchaug from South Sutton about 1827, was renovated in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century for hotel use and eventually acquired by the Manchaug Company.

A major theme in the district’s history is the growth at Manchaug of the predominantly French Canadian community from Quebec, who established residences, cultural institutions, and a Main Street business district at the southern end of the village, adjacent to the company town. While many were employed at the mills, others soon opened their own businesses and built homes on land subdivided from the Darling and Morse farms from the 1870s onward. The Flats and Mumford Road retain many examples of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century village dwellings and 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburban design that help define the character of the streetscape in the historic district.

St. Anne Roman Catholic Church was a center for Manchaug’s French Canadian community from 1883 onward, which at its peak included a rectory, convent, two Catholic schools, an orphan home, and a hall for the St. Jean Baptiste Society. Due to a disagreement within the French-speaking parish, a large number left and formed the independent St. Paul Catholic Church at Manchaug, soon known as the French Baptist Church, after its members were baptized by immersion into the Baptist faith. Services at the French Baptist Church were conducted in French as late as the 1950s.

All buildings associated with Catholic institutions at Manchaug burned in April 1924. The fire started at Conley’s Garage, replaced by Conley’s Service Station, and destroyed 29 buildings over approximately one-quarter mile of the Main Street business district, including 11 residential buildings, leaving twenty-five families homeless. As the closure of the Manchaug mills in 1922 had forced many in the village to seek work elsewhere, the fire further displaced residents, a situation exacerbated when the company houses in the northern end of the district were auctioned in 1927.

In some cases, such as the Manchaug Hotel, village buildings have been lost to demolition rather than fire. Not uncommon in Massachusetts in the 1960s and 1970s, demolition reflected changing patterns of development, with historic commercial buildings arguably the most vulnerable to loss.

MHC was in the early stages of preparing a National Register district nomination for Manchaug Mills when Mill No. 3 burned in 1975, leaving Mill No. 1 as the only industrial complex remaining in the village. At the time, Mill No. 3 housed a chicken and egg farm.

A nomination prepared in the 1970s likely would have been confined to the industrial buildings, and possibly included some early company housing and Mateychuk Square, but probably not the churches, school, and store; the company farm, Memorial Park, and the Darling Cemetery; the engineered landscape and archaeological sites; or evidence of the farmsteads that preceded the company town and the village of new immigrants to the United States who made Manchaug their own.

In the last forty years, preservation planning has evolved considerably and Manchaug has patiently waited. National Register listing would recognize the Mill No. 1 complex so highly valued in the community, along with a diverse collection of significant historic resources that merit continued study.

This concluded the presentation of National Register nominations. Chairman Maresco thanked the presenters and Ms. Friedberg. The chairman called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Historic Resources Associated with Chinese Immigrants and Chinese** Americans in the city of **Boston** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sullivan and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Crissman. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner Sullivan said that forty seven years ago, he worked for a community organization in Chinatown and produced one of the reports cited in this nomination, at a time when not much was known about the history of Chinatown. He is really pleased this nomination has come to the Commission for a vote--it is encyclopedic and an enormous advance on what we know about this community, and he is very happy to recommend this nomination to the Commission. Chairman Maresco then called for questions or comments from the public and recognized Susan Chinsen, Managing Director, Chinese Historical Society of New England – CHSNE, saying that she thanks MHC for their support and help to reach this point, and to researchers such as Professor Tunney Lee at MIT, who has done a lot of the legwork on the community's history. This nomination and context present a significant opportunity for people in this community and those interested in Asian American studies to feel part of the National Register. The individual nomination for the Quincy School represents the work of CCBA's 40+ member committee, representing social and cultural organizations across Chinatown, and shows that they now embrace historic preservation and their role in it, and we hope this will lead to other nominations in Chinatown and possibly a district in the future. The context confirms that the community's history is a part of America's history and will be a resource for future researchers. The chairman thanked Ms. Chinsen for her comments and then called for further public comments. He then recognized Shauna Lo, Assistant Director for the Institute for Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston, who stated she is very gratified to have the history of the Boston Chinese-American community recognized and acknowledged this way. She noted that Boston's Chinatown is one of the last remaining historic Chinatowns and has been under threat for some time. She said that this recognition could not come at a better time and will help to preserve the community. The chairman thanked Ms. Lo for her comments, and then called for any further comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The Chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Quincy Grammar School in Boston** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Crowley and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. The chairman recognized Susan Chinsen, Chinese Historical Society of New England – CHSNE. Susan would like to note that there is a group of supporters who came to the meeting today to witness this historic moment as a connection for Asian Americans in Massachusetts. The chairman thanked Ms. Chinsen for her comments, and then called for any further comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Columbia Road-Bellevue Street Historic District in Dorchester** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner Friary said he questions the future of some of the buildings, as they appear quite precarious--will this listing assist in their preservation in the future? Ms. Friedberg said she has no information about the future of other buildings in the nominated area other than the four that are being rehabilitated, but one would hope the nomination would be a stimulus for additional work. The chairman thanked Ms. Friedberg, then recognized Commissioner Field, who asked whether the community is interested or currently pursuing local district designation, which would afford additional protections by the city. Ms. Friedberg said she doesn't know anything about a local district proposal, and noted that it's a completely separate process. The chairman thanked Ms. Friedberg, then called for any further comments from the public. The chairman recognized Mr. Johnathan Fernandes, part owner of Floyd William Funeral Home, also known as the William H. Sayward House of 1840. Mr. Fernandes said they are in the process of doing major renovation to the building and are concerned about moving forward with their project if they're on the National Register. Ms. Friedberg said the National Register designation does not add any additional layer of oversight of what you are doing beyond what is in the city bylaws and ordinances and so you would be communicating with the city just as you would ordinarily do. The chairman thanked Ms. Friedberg, then recognized Executive Director and SHPO Brona Simon, who said that the listing in the National Register of private property, for which you are using your own private monies to renovate your privately owned building, has no effect on your project other than receiving your usual building permit from the city's inspection department. Because it's a funeral home, it's income producing, which would mean you might qualify for a state and/or federal income tax credit if your work meets the Secretary of Interior's standards. That's a benefit of being listed. It's not a requirement--it's an option that private owners with income-producing properties can pursue if they want to, and it's totally up to you. The chairman thanked Ms. Simon for her comments, and then called for any further comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Rocky Neck Historic District in Gloucester** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Field. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. He recognized Commissioner DeWitt, who said he was pleased to see this nomination. The chairman thanked Commissioner DeWitt and then recognized Commissioner Friary, who asked about the objections from property owners. Commissioner Friary would like to know the reason for the objections. Ms. Friedberg said owners are not required to express why they choose to object—they just say they are the owner or part owner of a particular property and that they object. There are 32 owners who have objected out of 211 owners, about 15%. If a majority of owners objected, the nomination could not move forward. The chairman thanked Ms. Friedberg, then called for any further comments from the public. The chairman recognized Mary Ellen Lepionka, Co-Chair of the Gloucester Historical Commission. She said that she believes the reasons for the objections are due to common misconceptions of homeowners thinking that “historic district” is a restrictive measure that would prevent them from doing what they want with their property. She said she hoped the nomination would let homeowners know that they live in a very special area and they might want to protect and preserve that at their own initiative. The chairman then recognized Karen Ristuben, President of the Rocky Neck Art Colony for eight years and also a resident. She said that real estate development in our area threatens beautiful waterfront places like Rocky Neck. She doesn’t speak for the entire organization, but she personally is very much in favor of the National Register listing because it gives advocates one more opportunity to preserve what they have, and helps us as stewards of our cultural and artistic heritage to be able to say this is a place that’s been at a forefront of arts for centuries and to maintain ourselves as an arts community well into the future. It gives us the opportunities for grants and tax incentives that would help them maintain Rocky Neck as an arts community. She said that as a home owner, she would not be in favor of a local historic district designation because it is restrictive, but she sees this as a different opportunity and not as a restriction. She said that they were surprised at the number of opponents to the nomination. She said she brought 9 or 10 letters and emails of support. One of the owners who initially filed an objection has withdrawn it upon further review of information about the nomination. The chairman recognized Michael Faherty, who is opposed to the designation. He noted that he felt owners had been misled in the public information meeting as to how long they had to object, and that owners had only recently realized they had until now to object, and that this led to the number of owners who have just objected. He said he is offended by the need for a notarized objection, which is an enormous inconvenience for owners. He is a lawyer and he had told owners that this designation has no immediate effect on owners but that the consequences of listing would be down the road, through review of any project using state or federal funding or permitting or licensing. He said all owners of waterfront property in the district would need Chapter 91 licenses, which could hold up projects. He has restored his own properties in the district. All the properties are well maintained privately without any state or federal designation. He asked the commission to postpone the decision on the

nomination to allow the community time to get more information; he feels the majority of owners are not interested. He suggested the nomination could be redrawn to exclude any waterfront properties. He also acknowledged the effort of those who prepared the nomination. The chairman thanked Mr. Faherty and then called for any further comments from the public. Hearing none he closed the public comment portion. The Chairman then asked Ms. Friedberg how staff arrived at the figure of 211 property owners. Ms. Friedberg said staff counted the number of owners, not the number of properties, from assessors' records, just as we always do. Some owners are trusts, some are individuals, some are couples; all owners were notified and a legal notice was placed in the paper. Of the objections received and reviewed, there were several where the same owner who was objecting more than once because they owned more than one property, but according to the National Register regulations each owner is entitled to one vote, not multiple votes, even if they own multiple properties, This is how the figures of 211 total properties and 32 property owners objecting was arrived at. Chairman asked if this is the same standard we use every single time. Ms. Friedberg said yes. The Chairman said MHC follows federal regulations for National Register notifications. The chairman called for further questions or comments from the commission. Commissioner Bell asked if there is any precedent to defer this to another meeting. The Chairman said we could if there is a majority vote on the commission and that it has happened before at least once. Commissioner Sullivan said if the commission agrees with the staff that this nomination represents a district that meets the criteria for listing in the National Register, then they should vote on it. It's geographically defined, it has a clear history, the fact that some properties are subject to Chapter 91 review isn't an argument against this nomination. So given the quality of the proposed district and given that fewer than 50% of the owners object, he feels the commission should vote on this nomination. The chairman thanked Commissioner Sullivan, then recognized Commissioner DeWitt, who said that there are a number of districts that the commission has voted on where there are waterfront issues, and this is not a unique situation; he concurs with Commissioner Sullivan. The chairman thanked Commissioner DeWitt and called for any other questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Davenport Estate Historic District in Milton** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Avenia. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. He recognized Commissioner DeWitt, who said that this site has become a great asset to the community, both because of the house and what they have done with the landscape, and he is delighted to have this nomination coming for a vote. The chairman thanked Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for any further questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that

the nomination for the **Manchaug Village** in the **Town of Sutton** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Field. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for comments from the public. The chairman recognized Jennifer Hager, Planning Director for the town of Sutton, who thanked MHC for all their help in this nomination. She said it has been an honor to work with the residents of Manchaug on this nomination and to see the pride of residents in the village and its history. The chairman recognized Christine Watkins, who said that her family has lived in the village for five generations and that about twenty years ago they started a project on village history and were given more than three hundred pictures from residents, many of whom were descendants of original French Canadian immigrants to the area. The chairman recognized Rochelle Forsythe, who said she's a member of the Sutton Historical Society and the Commission, she's a fourth generation resident of Manchaug Village, and she is very pleased how many people are communicating with each other about the nomination. The chairman recognized Walter Baker, Sutton Historical Commission, Society, and Planning Board. He mentioned that the remnants of the Mill #2 were recently turned over to the town and will become part of a town walking trail. He said that this nomination project has the overwhelming support of the town of Sutton. The chairman thanked Mr. Baker for his comments, and then called for any further comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the National Register voting. Chairman Maresco thanked the audience for taking time out of their busy schedules to be present. He then turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) Grants, Round 23**. The chairman first called for any recusals. Commissioner Pride said she would recuse herself for discussion and voting on Captain R.B. Forbes House in Milton and the United First Parish Church (Church of the Presidents) in Quincy. Commissioner Sullivan said he would recuse himself from discussion and voting on the Spencer-Pierce-Little House in Newbury. The chairman then recognized Paul Holtz, Co-Director of the Grants Division. Mr. Holtz distributed a spreadsheet with information on each recommended project, a copy of which is on file with these minutes. He thanked Commissioners Crowley, Dewitt, and McDowell for serving as the grants subcommittee prior to the meeting. He then gave an overview of MPPF Round 23, saying that MHC received 43 total applications: 39 for development projects; 4 for pre-development projects; 17 applications were from municipalities, and 26 from nonprofits. Mr. Holtz said MHC staff recommended 19 projects for MPPF grants. He then gave a short presentation on each of the recommended projects. Commissioner Crowley provided a brief summary of the MPPF grants subcommittee meeting.

Chairman Maresco thanked Mr. Holtz, and then began the voting process as follows:

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$57,500** to the **Gay Head Light in Aquinnah**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Sullivan and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for questions or comments from the

commission. Hearing none, the chairman moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$25,000** to the **Jason Russell House in Arlington**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$20,000** to the **East Blackstone Friends Meetinghouse in Blackstone**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Friary and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Church of the Covenant in Boston** (Back Bay). A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Crissman and SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Emmanuel Church in Boston** (Back Bay). A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Crissman. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$40,000** to **Frederick Ayer Mansion** (Bayridge Residence and Cultural center) in **Boston** (Back Bay). A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Avenia and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to **Fenway Studies Building in Boston** (Fenway). A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Crissman. Chairman Maresco called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Pride recused herself and left the room. Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Captain R.B. Forbes House Museum** in **Milton**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED with one recusal and twelve in favor. Commissioner Pride returned back into the room.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$15,000** to the **Rural Cemetery** in **New Bedford**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Avenia. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Sullivan recused himself and left the room. Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Spencer-Pierce-Little House** in **Newbury**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Pride and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED with one recusal and twelve in favor.

Commissioner Sullivan returned back into the room. Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$60,000** to the **Hampshire County Courthouse** (Hampshire Council of Governments) in **Northampton**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Field. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$14,500** to the **Smith Charities Building** in **Northampton**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$55,000** to the **Phillipston Town Hall** in **Phillipston**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Pilgrim Hall Museum** in

**Plymouth.** A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this point in the meeting, Commissioner Pride recused herself and left the room. Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$25,000** to the **United First Parish Church** (Church of the Presidents) in **Quincy**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED with one recusal and twelve in favor.

Commissioner Pride returned back into the room. Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$43,000** to **House of Seven Gables** (Capt. John Turner House) in **Salem**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Friary and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$15,000** to **Memory Statue** (Central Burying Ground) in **Sherborn**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Field and SECONDED by Commissioner Avenia. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to **Grace Baptist Church** (Hispanic Association for Community Development) in **Somerville**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Maresco called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$60,000** to **Whately Town House** in **Whately**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Pride. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the voting, and Chairman Maresco turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Executive Director's Report**. Executive Director Brona Simon began by saying she has some personnel news to announce, stating that Phil Bergen will be retiring after twenty years at MHC. He has decided to retire at the end of July. She asked the commissioners to give him good

wishes. Phil was overwhelmed with all the congratulations and thanked the commissioners for their support. Ms. Simon said that MHC will be seeking qualified candidates to fill the staff position and that job notices for the National Register Assistant position will be sent out. She asked if commissioners know any candidates to have them send their resume.

Ms. Simon then announced that the state budget for FY18, which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>, is still moving through the legislature and that the MHC budget figure remains unchanged. The only possibility is if the Governor does the same thing he did last year, he might make a reduction across the board when he signs the budget. Chairman Maresco said there are two issues. The FY17 budget may have missed the benchmark by between \$500 - \$650 million dollars. The FY18 budget that was voted in by the House and Senate could be off by \$700 - \$800 million dollars. The Legislature will have to take a look at all the final revenues that will come in by June 30th to see how things progress. Ms. Simon thanked the Chairman. Ms. Simon then gave the Commissioners a federal budget update for MHC's current federal fiscal year FY2017. The continuing resolution expired in April and Congress developed an Omnibus bill, which the president signed. The Congress and the Omnibus bill increased the Historic Preservation Fund significantly over the previous levels. The good news is that it increases the Historic Preservation Fund for SHPO offices by one million dollars above the prior year. Overall, the HPF was increased by \$13 million, much of which will be going to special kinds of historic preservation projects that the National Park Service operates, such as Civil Rights Movement program grants, under-represented communities (such as Chinatown), historically black colleges and universities, and \$5,000,000 for Save America's Treasures Grants. MHC will see a small increase in our funding. However, there is a new challenge for the federal fiscal year 2018 budget, which would start October 1<sup>st</sup>. The President has recommended about a \$6,000,000 decrease in the Historic Preservation Fund for State Historic Preservation Offices and an overall cut of about \$30 million from the entire Historic Preservation Fund. The budget is currently in the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Sub-Committees. Preservationists are now advocating for restoration of the Historic Preservation Fund levels. The chairman recognized Commissioner Field, who asked how the states are allocated their amounts and if it is based on population. Ms. Simon said it's allocated by a formula that includes the size of the state in square miles, population size, the number of National Register listings, and the number of buildings that are older than fifty years old according to the census. She stated that Massachusetts is losing ground to the West and Mid-West, which have many more 1950's-1960's buildings. MHC is usually in the top 10 in the country in federal allocations. The chairman recognized Commissioner Pride, who asked for clarification on whether the decrease of the amount of \$30,000,000 is the SHPO's money or all of the programs run by the National Park Service. Ms. Simon replied that it's the entire preservation fund, which includes the other grant programs as well and the SHPOs. Ms. Simon said the President is recommending a \$6,000,000 reduction in funding for SHPOs. Commissioner Pride asked what is the State budget's amount? Ms. Simon replied it's \$932,000. The chairman said it's listed in the conference committee as \$1,032,000, which includes two \$50,000 pass-through grants that legislators added, one in the House and one in the Senate. Commissioner Pride asked if they were two operating incomes. The chairman said yes.

Ms. Simon then gave an update on the Preservation Awards Program. Since there was no quorum for the April 2017 meeting, the meeting and subcommittee meetings were cancelled.

The revised schedule is to put the Preservation Awards on the agenda for the September 13, 2017 meeting. The Preservation Awards subcommittee (Commissioners DeWitt, McDowell, and Cosco) will meet at 10:30 AM that day and report to the full commission. The awards ceremony will be held in October. A new round of applications will come in February for the Commission's vote at the April meeting for an event in May. Ms. Simon reminded the commissioners that 39 years ago, when the director at the time brought forth the preservation awards program to the commission for discussion and development, the commission wanted to be very much involved in the preservation awards selection process. She asked if the commissioners still want to be involved in the selection process or if they would prefer to delegate it to the staff. The sense of the Commission was that the commissioners still want to be involved in selecting the awards.

This concluded the Executive Director's report. Chairman Maresco thanked Ms. Simon for her report and called for any questions. Hearing none, he then called for any new business. He recognized Commissioner Pride, who asked about the gentleman who spoke about owner objections to listing in the National Register. She wondered if it was something that should be further examined or if there's a reason that owners' letters be notarized. Chairman Maresco said it is a federal requirement that the owners' letters be notarized, so any change would have to be made by the federal government. Hearing no further discussion, the chairman called for a MOTION to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Crissman and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

Commissioners Present

MICHAEL MARESCO  
GEORGE BELL  
JIM CRISSMAN  
SUANNA SELBY CROWLEY  
DENNIS DEWITT  
CAITLIN EMERY  
CY FIELD  
DENNIS FIORI  
DONALD FRIARY  
MICHAEL MCDOWELL  
ANNE PRIDE  
CHARLES SULLIVAN  
MARK WILSON

Staff Present

BRONA SIMON  
PHIL BERGEN  
SHIRLEY BROWN  
ROSS DEKLE  
ERIN DOHERTY

BETSY FRIEDBERG  
PAUL HOLTZ  
NANCY MAIDA  
PATRICK POWERS  
MICHAEL STEINITZ  
PETER STOTT  
SHARI PERRY-WALLACE

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Brown