

MEETING MINUTES
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 10, 2025

The Commission meeting was held remotely in a Zoom meeting starting at 1:00 PM

Chairman Rosenberry called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. On behalf of Secretary Galvin, Chairman Rosenberry thanked the Commissioners, MHC staff and visitors for attending today.

The Chairman then introduced new Commissioner Douglas Gutro representing the Executive Office of Economic Development, replacing Commissioner Ashley Stolba, and welcomed him to the Commission. The Chairman then invited Commissioner Gutro to say a few words. Commissioner Gutro responded that it's an honor to be part of the Commission. He's relatively new at the Executive Office of Economic Development, where he is the Director of the Permit Regulatory Office, and has been in state government since 2023. He has spent most of his career with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and has held elected office as City Council and School Committee member in the City of Quincy, has deep ties to the Quincy Historical Society and Historical Commission, and has sat in on many historical commission meetings at the local level. He looks forward to participating on behalf of Secretary Paley.

The Chairman thanked Commissioner Gutro. Chairman Rosenberry then took attendance to determine that a quorum was met.

The Chairman turned to the first item on the agenda, the approval of the June 11, 2025 meeting minutes. He called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the minutes. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Friary. Hearing no questions or comments from the commission, the Chairman called the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Chairman then, for those individuals who may not have attended commission meetings in the past, explained the structure of the meeting and when in the process the visitors could address the commission.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) Grants, Round 31.**

Chairman Rosenberry first called for any recusals. Commissioner Sullivan recused himself from the discussion and voting on the William Ellery Channing Eustis House in the Town of Milton. The Chairman, then turned the meeting over to Paul Holtz, Co-Director of the Grants Division. A copy of the presented spreadsheet is on file with these minutes. At this point Commissioner Sullivan left the meeting.

The Eustis House in Milton is a continuation from June 11, 2025 meeting. The vote was postponed due to MHC not having a quorum for this vote. Mr. Holtz summarized the grant application for the Eustis House for gutter and downspout replacement, ground drainage improvements and masonry repointing.

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

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION to accept the MHC staff recommendation to award an MPPF grant in the amount of **\$50,000** to the **Milton Eustis House in Milton**. A MOTION TO ACCEPT was made by Commissioner Friary and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The commissioner called for questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. This concluded the voting.

At this point Commissioner Sullivan returned to the meeting.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the National Register Program, and called for any recusals. Hearing none, he turned the meeting over to Ben Haley, National Register Director, who presented the nominations with presentation slides. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file with these minutes.

The first nomination presented was for the **Amesbury Public Library in Amesbury**. The applicant is the City of Amesbury with Heritage Consulting Group as preservation consultant who prepared the nomination.

The Romanesque Revival library was built in 1901 and is a two-story, load-bearing masonry building with a granite foundation and limestone ornamentation. The property also features a non-historic courtyard and landscaping to the south, and a mix of original and non-historic stone retaining walls. A long, L-shaped ramp

installed in 2007 provides ADA-compliant accessibility to the building through the 1987 rear vestibule. The Amesbury Public Library is significant at the local level; its period of significance extends from 1902, the year it opened, to 1954, when a second floor was added to the rear stack room.

Criterion C – Architecture

The Amesbury Public Library is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style and demonstrates a typical library plan that evolved simultaneously with the public library as a free and democratic public institution. By the end of the 19th century, the existing library building had outgrown its previous location on Friend Street. The new purpose-built building was designed by architect Penn Varney of nearby Lynn, who was known for his institutional and educational designs. Varney's design for the library coincided with the second wave of the Romanesque Revival's popularity in the late 19th century. The resulting building is an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century Romanesque Revival library building with a T-shaped plan and stacks oriented along the interior's perimeter.

Criterion A – Community Planning & Development

The Amesbury Public Library is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. The building represents a community-wide effort to provide the town with a dedicated library building offering expanded educational opportunities. The library was made possible by significant contributions from two families—the Hubbard's and Barnards—that together allocated \$35,000 toward the new building. Since its construction, the Amesbury Public Library has offered essential educational resources for the community and remained a landmark in the town.

Criterion A – Education

The Amesbury Public Library is significant under Criterion A for its role in education, serving as the town's primary public learning resource from the turn of the 20th century. The building expanded access to books, study spaces, and provided a pioneering children's reading room, aligning with national shifts toward youth services and strengthening ties with the public schools. Despite financial challenges during the Great Depression, the library remained a hub for literacy and self-improvement, later revitalized by major donations that supported expanded collections, improved facilities, and designated spaces for students of various ages. With circulation rates growing despite limited funding, the library exemplified the

community's strong civic commitment to education and public access to knowledge.

Integrity

The Amesbury Public Library retains a high degree of integrity from its period of significance. Exterior alterations since that time are minimal and primarily related to accessibility, including the addition of a ramp and glazed vestibule at a secondary rear entrance in 1987, replacement of the 1987 ramp in 2007, and installation of automatic doors in 2008. Other changes, such as the infill of one basement window, limited landscaping modifications, and the introduction of a small, non-historic and impermanent shed, have not diminished the building's historic character.

Interior

Interior updates have been restricted to carpeting, selective recessed lighting, relocating the circulation desk to allow the public free access to the stacks, the addition of a second floor in the rear stacks, and minor basement alterations that did not impact character-defining features. The library continues to exhibit its Romanesque Revival design through elements such as its recessed entry, round arches, rough stonework, coved ceilings, and carved millwork, and retains its original T-shaped plan, iconic of similar library buildings at the time. Overall, the building retains a very high level of integrity and remains a prominent civic landmark in downtown Amesbury.

The next nomination presented was for the **Rogers Grammar School in Fairhaven**. The applicant is Town of Fairhaven with the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. as preservation consultant who prepared the nomination.

Rogers Grammar School, Fairhaven

Rogers Grammar School is located in a residential part of downtown Fairhaven. It is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with town benefactor and Standard Oil capitalist Henry Huttleston Rogers (1840–1909). It is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Education as the first and longest operating graded-grammar school in Fairhaven, and as an early representative example of a late 19th-century public school built in response to the abolition of the district school system and other statewide educational reforms.

Under Criterion C in the area of Architecture

The original 1884–1885 Romanesque Revival-style school building is significant at the state level and the 1957 International style addition is significant at the local level. This distinction in level of significance between the original portion of a building and an addition is an unorthodox approach, but we felt it necessary given the importance of the 1880s portion, which will be addressed shortly.

The period of significance begins in 1885 with the completion of the Rogers Grammar School and ends in 1957, with the construction of the International Style addition to the original building.

The Rogers Grammar School property occupies two parcels of approximately 3.45 total acres. The property is bounded by Center Street to the north, Pleasant Street to the east, South Street to the south, and Chestnut Street to the north. The district is located east of downtown Fairhaven in a primarily residential neighborhood.

Resources consist of the Rogers Grammar School constructed in 1884-1885; an International Style addition constructed in 1957; school grounds; and a non-contributing 20th century flagpole.

Henry Huttleston Rogers

The Rogers Grammar School was developed in response to statewide educational reforms, notably the abolition of the Massachusetts district school system in 1882. Fairhaven native and Standard Oil capitalist Henry Huttleston Rogers funded the construction of the town's first grammar school, which was named for him, in 1884.

Rogers was locally significant for donating money to for the construction of a library, a recreation building, a Town Hall, a church, a hotel, and several schools. Outside of Fairhaven, he funded construction of 65 schools for Black children in association with the Tuskegee Institute, financing Helen Keller's college tuition, and contributed to numerous charitable causes.

Rogers Grammar School

The school was designed in the Romanesque Revival style by Warren Richard Briggs, who is regarded as a leading practitioner in sanitary schoolhouse design at the turn-of-the-century. The building includes the character-defining features of its style, including a bell tower with a pyramidal slate roof, extensive brick corbelling, round-arch windows, and a principal entrance recessed within a round-arch

opening. [Advance to Slide 5B] Classrooms include wood floors, beadboard trim, built-in chalkboards, and paneled doors and ceilings.

Henry Huttleston Rogers Schematics

Rogers Grammar School was an early commission in Warren Richard Briggs' career and is the only school he designed that is known to survive in Massachusetts. Briggs, who in the 1870s trained at the atelier André at the École des Beaux-Arts, the same atelier where other prominent American architects studied, like Bernard Maybeck, Thomas Hastings, and Henry Hobson Richardson, produced scholarly studies that addressed ventilation issues in 19th-century New England schoolhouses and developed modern heating and ventilation systems to address these concerns in new school buildings. His innovations that he incorporated into the design of the Rogers School included ventilation shafts, operable transoms above classroom doors for better air-flow, and elevated windows to prevent glare. Rogers Grammar School is both an early commission in Briggs' career, reflecting a new stylistic mastery in his practice, and the earliest surviving example of the sanitary designs for which he was well-respected.

Growth of Fairhaven / 1957 Addition

The Town of Fairhaven grew rapidly between the first decade of the 20th century and 1950s, and the neighborhood around the Rogers Grammar School attracted immigrant families of French Canadian, Portuguese, and Polish descent. Overcrowding in the town's schools led to a new wave of school construction in the 1950s. Modern styles were most popular for new school buildings and additions. In 1957, the Town hired school architects Tallman, LaBrode & Rounseville to design a new middle school and additions to two schools. [Advance to Slide 7B] The firm designed an International Style addition off the southeast corner of the Rogers School to provide more classroom space, administrative offices, and new features like a gymnasium that doubled as a cafeteria and auditorium.

The Rogers Grammar School closed in 2013, and students were transferred to a newly opened elementary school. The building is currently vacant.

The next nomination presented was for the **Holy Family Church Complex Historic District in Rockland**. The applicant is Connolly and Partners, LLC with Epsilon Associates as preservation consultant who prepared the nomination. The nomination is being pursued as part of federal rehabilitation tax credit project.

The Holy Family Church Complex Historic District is located in the Town of Rockland in Plymouth County. The district spans four parcels that together form a 4.46-acre district extending to both the east and west sides of Union Street, Rockland's primary north-south corridor.

Within the district's boundaries are seven institutional and residential buildings, of which five are contributing. These contributing buildings date to between ca. 1850 and 1965 and collectively retain integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district satisfies Criteria Consideration A for its architectural merits and for its association with the history of Rockland's Catholic community. The period of significance begins ca. 1850 with the construction of the earliest resource in the district, and extends to 1975, acknowledging the district's ongoing significance to the town's Catholic community.

Criterion A – Religion

The district satisfies Criterion A in the area of Religion as Rockland's first and only Catholic parish, anchored by the Church of the Holy Family. All of the resources within the district were either purpose-built by or utilized by the parish for worship, religious education, the housing of religious figures employed at the parish, and/or socialization, and financed through community fundraising with the assistance of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Holy Family Parish was established in 1882, at which time about ¼ of the approximately 4,500 residents of Rockland were Catholic. Construction of the Church of the Holy Family began that same year and, upon its completion in 1886, marked a major milestone for Rockland's working-class, largely immigrant Catholic population. The Holy Family Rectory was constructed in 1900. The district's significance is closely connected to the growth of the Catholic community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as many parishioners were employed in the town's storied footwear industry. The Holy Family Church Complex was at the center of religious and social life for Rockland's Catholics during the period of significance.

The parish expanded its prominence within the local Catholic community in the mid-20th century with the establishment of the Holy Family Parochial School in 1941. The school was established as part of the Archdiocese of Boston's broader parochial school building campaign, an initiative aimed at supporting the continued expansion of Catholicism throughout the Greater Boston area. The eight-classroom school was built on the same parcel was the Franklin Poole House, a ca. 1850 dwelling that was then converted into a convent that operated through about 2000.

The convent housed the nuns of the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught at the Holy Family School.

Following World War II, Rockland's population grew rapidly and the town experienced a suburban residential boom. Only a decade after opening in 1941, enrollment at the Holy Family Parochial School skyrocketed and the parish embarked on a capital campaign to finance a new school. The 16-classroom Holy Family School was completed in 1965. Between the two buildings on the campus, the Holy Family School provided 24 classrooms for elementary students, enabling the drastic increase in enrollment.

Criterion C – Architecture

The district satisfies Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an eclectic collection of buildings that vary in architectural style, use, and construction period and together are significant. Five buildings in the district embody characteristics distinctive to their resource types and architectural styles, and retain sufficient architectural integrity to be contributing. The oldest resource in the district is the ca. 1850 Franklin Poole House, a representative example of an Italianate-style dwelling built during Rockland's mid-19th century residential building boom. The Church of the Holy Family is one of seven extant churches in Rockland, five of which were constructed in the late 19th century in response to the rapid population growth spurred by the flourishing local shoe industry. It is significant as a well-preserved and good example of the Romanesque Revival style. South of the church is the Classical Revival-style Holy Family Rectory, also a well-preserved and good example of its style.

The Holy Family Church Complex Historic District features Rockland's two Catholic parochial schools, the Holy Family Parochial School and the Holy Family School. Like numerous other parochial schools constructed across Massachusetts in the mid-20th century, these buildings share a common overall, minimalistic appearance. Elaborate entrance frames are often the element corresponding to a specific architectural style. The limestone entrance dominating the façade of the Holy Family Parochial School gives the building its Classical Revival designation, while more austere Holy Family School was designed in the Modern style. Following the closure of the school in 2018, the Holy Family School was subdivided from the church property and converted into low-income senior housing. Funded in part by federal and state historic rehabilitation tax credits, work to the building met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Exterior work was limited but included the cleaning and repairing masonry, and the replacement of non-historic windows and doors with replacements more consistent with historic

configuration. The interior of the former school was reconfigured to create 27 units of affordable housing, and new building systems were installed. The project is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Chairman Rosenberry then called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Amesbury Public Library in Amesbury** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McCurdy and SECONDED by Commissioner Sullivan. The Chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Rogers Grammar School in Fairhaven** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner McDowell and SECONDED by Commissioner Sullivan. The Chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendation that the nomination for the **Holy Family Church Complex Historic District in Rockland** be forwarded to the National Park Service for final review. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Friary and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The Chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, he called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the National Register portion of the agenda.

Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the Local Historic District Preliminary Study Reports. The chairman first called for any recusals. Hearing none, he turned the meeting over to the Director of the Preservation Planning Division, Michael Steinitz.

Mr. Steinitz presented the study reports with a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is on file with these minutes.

Captain John Bussey House, Boston

Mr. Steinitz first presented the **Captain John Bussey House in Boston**. The City of Boston is proposing to landmark the Captain John Bussey House at 1203-1205 Adams Street in the Dorchester neighborhood. The designation was initiated in 2007 by a petition submitted by 11 registered voters submitted to the Boston Landmarks Commission.

The Bussey House is located on a quarter-acre parcel on the north side of Adams Street in the Lower Mills section of Dorchester at the southern border of the City with the Town of Milton. The owner of record is RTN Federal Credit Union located in Waltham, more recently renamed Bright Bridge Credit Union, which occupies the building.

The building is located across the street from the former Walter Baker Chocolate Company – Adams Street Mill, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as part of the Dorchester – Milton Lower Mills Industrial District, highlighted here in red, an approximately 19 acre district that straddles the Boston – Milton line along the Neponset River.

This aerial view shows the Bussey House on Adams Street facing the Baker Chocolate complex with the Neponset River on the far right. The Bussey House is flanked by parking lots immediately to the west and east on Adams Street. Immediately to the north of the property is the seven-story Lower Mills Apartments – a Boston Public Housing Authority complex dating to 1972.

The Bussey House, originally constructed ca. 1792, has been altered several times over its history to accommodate changing uses. The two-story, five-bay, Federal-style main block retains much of its Federal Period identity. Sometime between 1905 and 1909 a Classical Revival store-front reading room was added to the street facing elevation. Between 1918 and 1933 a large addition was constructed at the rear of the main block. The porte cochere drive-through on the west elevation of the building presumably dates to its conversion to a bank ca. 2010.

The building is clad in clapboards with simple corner boards and sills, with a string course running between the first and second floors. The main block, rear addition, and porte cochere all have hip roofs, and the projecting reading room has a pedimented gable. The second story of the main block displays the typical symmetrical, 5 bay arrangement common to many late 18th century residential buildings of this type.

The projecting, early 20th century storefront reading room addition has Ionic columns at four corners, surmounted by an entablature with dentil molding and a

deep cornice. The front pediment also contains dentil molding. Transoms above the storefront windows contain patterned glass. A tall window with sidelights on the main block first floor east of the addition, and on the east elevation, a triple window flanked by paneled pilasters and topped by a dentiled cornice appear to date to the time of the early 20th century renovations.

The Bussey House is significant for its survival as an 18th century dwelling associated with a Revolutionary War officer, John Bussey, who also was a well-known sea captain of trading vessels in the early 19th century. Neponset Village, as this area was originally known, was an early focus of mills, distilleries and shipyards along the river. Land records indicate that the house was built by or for cabinetmaker Ebenezer Vose, whose family had extensive landholdings here, and who then sold it to John Bussey in 1795. Born in Stoughton in 1751, John Bussey joined the militia in Milton in April 1775, and served in artillery regiments, mostly in defense of Boston Harbor. With the rank of captain-lieutenant, he served in the Thomas Craft's Regiment, which was active in refortifying Castle Island after the British evacuation, supporting the defense of Newport, RI, and escorting Hessian prisoners from upstate New York to Boston after the British surrender at Saratoga. Following the war he moved with his family to Dorchester where he briefly operated the Washington Tavern near the Milton Bridge. The 1795 deed to the house lists his occupation as trader. Newspaper notices in the early 19th century list him as a shipmaster hauling cargos of molasses from Suriname, and later captaining packet ships for the Boston & Liverpool line.

Following Bussey's death the house remained in the family until 1890, when they sold it to Henry Pierce, owner of Walter Baker & Company, which had developed as the extensive chocolate manufacturing complex across the street. Subsequently, the company outfitted the first floor of the building into a reading room for its employees, who by 1910 numbered nearly 900. The Classical Revival detailing of this storefront addition suggest it may have been designed by the firm of Winslow & Bigelow, or Winslow, Bigelow & Wadsworth, who were the architects for mill buildings for Baker Chocolate in 1902 and 1903. The house also had rooms for boarders, a small hotel and apartment under company ownership.

The company later subdivided the property, and in 1940 sold the lot with the building to Ethel Kiley, a caterer and antiques dealer, who operated her businesses here until 1968, when the building was acquired by another caterer, Elizabeth Sherman, who in turn sold in 2006. It was converted to a bank in 2010.

In 2007 the Boston Landmarks Commission imposed a delay on the issuing of a demolition permit under Article 85. The 90 day delay expired, but the building was not demolished. Local advocates at that time petitioned the BLC for landmark designation for the building, which was accepted by the BLC for further study in November 2007.

Recommendations of the Boston Landmarks Commission staff:

Because of its significance as one of the few surviving 18th century properties in Boston associated with a Revolutionary War officer, Captain John Bussey, who was also a well-known sea captain of the early 19th century, and as possibly one of the 50 oldest extant buildings in Boston, and for its early 20th century rehabilitation with an architecturally noteworthy Classical Revival, storefront reading room, Boston Landmarks Commission staff recommends that the Captain John Bussey House be designated as a Boston Landmark.

MHC staff recommends acknowledging receipt of the Landmark Study Report for the Captain John Bussey House and providing the following advisory recommendations and comments:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission concurs with the recommendations of the Boston Landmarks Commission staff.

Josiah Keith House Local Historic District, Easton

Mr. Steinitz then presented the **Josiah Keith House Local Historic District in Easton**. In the Town of Easton, the Easton Historical Commission is proposing to designate the Town's third local historic district, the Josiah Keith House Historic District. The district would protect a single, 2-1/2 acre property with a house, attached barn, and associated granary, located at 479 Bay Road in South Easton.

The Josiah Keith House is a contributing property to the Bay Road National Register Historic District, designated in 1972. At the time of its listing in the National Register in 1972, the two-mile stretch of Bay Road in Easton was recognized as the best preserved stretch of the 18th century post road that ran south from Boston. The Keith House is located midway on this stretch of roadway. Other 18th and 19th century buildings remain in the National Register district, which still retains a fair amount of its rural character. However there is also a significant amount of late 20th and early 21st century infill development along the road including ranches such as these in the immediate vicinity of the Keith House to more substantial suburban residences all along the road.

Originally built in 1717, the Keith House is the oldest extant house in Easton. Its historic significance was recognized as early as the 1920s, and beginning in the late 1990s, the house, barn and granary were stabilized and restored. The south-facing, one-story, gable-roofed, timber-framed building is situated on the west side of Bay Road. A 19th century, a vestibule links the house to a one-story, 19th century barn abutting it on the northeast. A free-standing, later granary or crib is located to the north.

The building is reputed to have undergone an unusual evolution. The Keith House is reported to originally have been two-stories in height consisting of the western 2/3rds of the building. In the late 18th or early 19th century, the first story, apparently rotted beyond repair, is said to have been removed, and the second story lowered in place, although it is not clear what documentary or physical evidence there is of this. Subsequently a lateral addition extended the now one-story house to the east. Somewhat later in the early 19th century a range of rooms was added to the rear of the house, and the roof was extended, giving the building its present, sweeping lean-to appearance.

Josiah Keith purchased 108 acres in this part of Easton in 1717 and began building this house in July of that year. The house was used as an inn as early as 1724. In 1735, Josiah Keith sold the property to his nephew Eleazer Keith, who in turn subsequently conveyed it to James Dean. Among the late 18th and early 19th century occupants of the household was the enslaved person Catherine Miller, whom James Dean purchased in 1770 when she was 11, and who apparently remained in bondage following the legal abolition of slavery in Massachusetts in 1783, and in the family household until she died in 1809. She is understood to have been the last enslaved person in Easton.

The farm property remained in the Dean and through marriage Williams families until 1917. From 1925 to 1963 it was farmed by William Newell. Following this the property was subdivided and passed through multiple owners. In 1995 it was purchased by Scott and Melanie Deware, who stabilized and restored it. Melanie Deware was the long time chair of the Easton Historical Commission. The current owners operate the Josiah Keith House as bed and breakfast.

MHC Staff Recommendations

MHC staff recommends acknowledging receipt of the Preliminary Study Report for the Josiah Keith House Historic District and providing the following advisory recommendations and comments:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission encourages the Town of Easton to establish the Josiah Keith Historic District.

Chairman Rosenberry then called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendations on the Preliminary Study Report for the **Captain John Bussey House in Boston**. A MOTION was made by Commissioner DeWitt and SECONDED by Commissioner Sullivan. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the Chair then called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rosenberry then called for a MOTION TO ACCEPT the MHC staff recommendations on the Preliminary Study Report for the **Josiah Keith House Local Historic District in Easton**. A MOTION was made by Commissioner M. Wilson and SECONDED by Commissioner McDowell. The chairman called for questions or comments from the commission. Hearing none, the Chair then called for questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, he moved the motion. The motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

This concluded the voting. Chairman Rosenberry then turned to the next item on the agenda, the **Executive Director's Report**. He then recognized Brona Simon, Executive Director.

Ms. Simon began by reporting that earlier this summer, the Federal funding from the Historic Preservation Fund that supports State Historic Preservation Offices across the country for the current fiscal year FY25 that began October 1, 2024 was finally released and made available to the states. MHC staff submitted applications to the National Park Service, which were approved right away. So the Survey and Planning grant projects that we previously reported to you as being on hold, are going again and well are on their way.

Ms. Simon announced that the FY25 funds will not expire for three years and cannot be subjected to pocket rescission. However the Federal FY26 budget remains under discussion in Congress and there may not be a Federal FY26 budget when this fiscal year expires on September 30th. But MHC will remain open in full operation. The folks in Washington are expecting a continuing resolution because that is the way Congress has been operating for the past several years.

Ms. Simon next announced that the other good news from our Federal Funds is that Ben Haley, our staff member applied for the American Battle Field grant from the National Park Service to undertake a research and survey project to determine the

actual route of the Knox Trail from New York State to Boston. Mr. Haley will be issuing an RFP for consultants to conduct the survey. If you're interested in the Knox Trail please contact Ben Haley. MHC also applied for and received an additional Maritime Heritage Education grant from the National Park Service. MHC received a grant to run the Maritime Heritage Education grant program. These are grants for educational programs related to maritime history and heritage that are awarded to non-profit organizations or local communities.

That concluded the Executive Director's report.

Chairman Rosenberry announced under new business that the hybrid meeting technology anticipated to be installed for commission meetings could not be delivered or installed in time for today's meeting. He asked commissions to stay tuned and hopefully the next meeting will be in a hybrid format and return to the meeting space located at MHC's Columbia Point building in the Patriots Meeting Room.

The Chair then called for a MOTION to adjourn. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Friary and SECONDED by Commissioner DeWitt. The MOTION CARRIED, and the meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.

Commissioners Present

John Rosenberry

Dennis DeWitt

Michael McDowell

Donald Friary

Mark Wilson

Derek Heidemann

Ryan Wheeler

James McCurdy

Kellie Carter Jackson

Charles Sullivan

Susan Ceccacci

Douglas Gutro

Staff Present

Brona Simon

Michael Steinitz

Ben Haley

Peter Stott

Paul Holtz

Nancy Alexson

Joshua Dorin

Shari Perry-Wallace

Liz King

Robin Forham

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Brown