

MWRC Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025
8:00-9:30 am
Via Zoom

Attendees

Ashland: Yolanda Greaves, Deepa Venkat, Melissa Adams (Asst. Town Planner)
Framingham: Yvonne Johnson, Joe Norton
Holliston: Tina Hein
Marlborough: Katie Robey, Brendan Downey (Historic Commission)
Natick: Morgan Griffiths, Amanda Loomis
Sherborn: Heidi Doyle, Margo Powicki, Marian Neutra
Southborough: Meme Luttrell, Sam Stivers, Debbie DeMuria, Grant Farrington (Historical Commission)
Wayland: Mary Antes, Robert Hummel
Wellesley: Eric Arbeene, Colette Aufranc
Weston: Imai Aiu
Associate Members: Susan Nicholl (Senate President Spilka's Office); Jason Palitsch (495/MW Partnership), Ethan LaPointe (Boston MPO/CTPS)
MAPC Coordinators: Travis Pollack, Camille Jonlin
MAPC Staff: Sarah Scott, Lindsay Randall

Welcome & Call to Order

- Quorum reached and Yolanda called the meeting to order at 8:04.

Approval of October 2025 Minutes – Yolanda Greaves

- Motion to approve amended minutes by Colette, seconded by Imai. Approved by show of hands.

Historic Preservation in Practice: Presentation and Participatory Discussion – Sarah Scott & Lindsay Randall

- Camille welcomes Sarah Scott and Lindsay Randall, leaders of MAPC History and Heritage practice.
- Chat question: What is one thing that makes your community special?
- Interdepartmental collaboration of both Arts & Culture and Land Use departments at MAPC, multiple disciplines of public humanities and historic presentation.
- Sarah – Masters in city planning and historic presentation; has preservation background and planning; Lindsay – archaeologist by training, 20 years working in museums, tribal communities, and elsewhere, now regional humanities specialist at MAPC in A&C team.
- Sarah – Historic Preservation 101 – includes conversation on past and future, community values, sense of identity, framework for managing change.
- Different professionals are part of HP locally, even a DPW maintains historic town buildings
- What is historic – significance, integrity, 50-year rule; but locally you can decide which ones are important or historic for your community (not only follow NRHS guidelines).
- Myths – sites or buildings don't only need to be nationally significant, or on National Register to be preserved; preservation is not about controlling what people do to their properties (like

paint color), or that historic preservation is only about the ruling class/white history. Preservation is about telling stories for all people.

- National Park Service oversees preservation on federal level. Framingham is a member of the Certified Local Government Program.
- Many munis work on historic preservation through State Historic Preservation Offices to regulate and enforce rules.
- Though there's a top down structure for HP with Federal legislation and agencies, it's most effective at the local level – Presentation plans, historic resource surveys (MACRIS), local historic districts, demolition delay bylaws.
- Lindsay – Humanities 101 – humanities is making meaning of our heritage, traditions, history.
- Locally, anyone can be part of humanities – library staff, planners, faith leaders, recreation staff.
- In practice humanities planning is to ground the future in the past, and foster belonging in a community.
- MAPC's field of practice and approach to historic preservation and humanities preservation. Tell the full story of everyone in a community, and center on people (e.g., enslaved persons, staff at a mansion).
- MAPC can assist with historic preservation plans, cultural plans, historic district guidelines, or historic/humanities aspects of other plans like comprehensive plans.
- Examples of local projects: Stoneham Historic Preservation Plan, Salem Jefferson Ave Corridor Plan (humanities lens on recognizing historic flow of South River and rights of nature); Framingham Creative Space Placemaking Project.
- MAPC also does webinars with other preservation and humanities organizations. Munis if they have historic districts, appeals can be appealed to your RPA (MAPC); only Wellesley does this in MW.
- See slides for MWRC historic planning efforts and programs.
- Optional MAPC/MWRC activity: subregional National Alliance of Preservation Commissions host HP training for locals
 - Yolanda and Colette -- Interest in doing this, but would need to scope this out and submit to MWRC for review.
- Tina – is there a one pages or resource for adding a building on the NR – will check with MHC.

Community Share Prompt: What achievements did your community accomplish in 2025? – Yolanda Greaves

- Yolanda/Ashland – all items at Town Meeting passed. Also Comp Plan passed, 3 year effort.
- Katie/Marlborough – elections (Katie re-elected, along with Mayor and most others on Council). Katie will push again for paying MWRC special assessment.
- Tina/Holliston – looking with MassDOT and others to bring Holliston rail-trail to be part of national trail route (East Coast Greenway). Meeting is Dec 4.
- Imai/Weston – DEI assessment underway, will be wrapped up Monday. Imai can share.
- Heidi/Sherborn – Sherborn is building history museum with library; expands smaller museum. Looking also doing historic trail.
- Meme/Southborough – Town meeting zoning change passed overwhelmingly to possibly allow Costco in town. Downtown project approved on vacant land.
- Joe/Framingham – doing rezoning/zoning. New mixed use building in downtown and other projects. Bruce Freeman Trail planning still active; and Logan Express remote terminal opened. First one in MA, perhaps first public commercial airline remote terminal in USA. Logan Terminal is

now getting full even with expanded parking. Also more solar power at new Logan Terminal. CPA funds for cemetery preservation.

- Eric/Wellesley – DCAMM looking at using surplus land with new housing, 45 acres. Working with legislative delegation to sizing this and doing visioning session with residents and others. 180 units. Controversial because the land is mostly forested.
- Amanda/Natick – Annual Town meeting, rezoning of Route 135 area with more form based codes; including Speen Street area.
- Robert/Wayland – Developer interested in making site MBTA Communities compliant. 109 rental units.

Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting

- Jason (495/MW Partnership)– Dec 12 [MW495 annual conference](#). Keynote is FIFA World Cup and Infrastructure. Also [Water Resources committee](#) will be meeting Tuesday morning.
- Susan (Sen. Pres. Spilka's Office) – busy work in Mass Senate. Cannabis reform under consideration. PDF fact sheet will be shared. Supplemental budget passed, all on Senate website. Committees will continue working over holidays and Senate full reconvene in 2026. Any questions, contact Susan.
- Camille/ Travis:
 - MAPC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) open for applications now; please tell Camille or Travis if you are considering an application
 - MPO regional meeting on Dec 2 – link in chat
 - Next MWRC meeting in January: Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Yolanda – MMA in January – be sure to register.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Colette, seconded by Imai. Meeting adjourned at 9:29, by show of hands.

Attachments:

- Historic Preservation Presentation (PDF)

Minutes compiled by Travis Pollack, MAPC

Minutes amended and approved January 15, 2026.

Additional links:

- Link to EMHCC webpage: <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/eastern-massachusetts-historical-commission-coalition/>
- link to more information on CAMP: <https://www.napcommissions.org/camp>