

TOWN OF HINGHAM

Hingham Historical Commission



MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 1, 2026

PLACE: Remote Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Dings, Robert Stansell, Kevin Warren, Brendan Concannon, Pamela Peters, Charles Hayes

ALSO PRESENT: Heidi Gaul, Historic Preservation Administrator

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen Jiranek

Chair Dings called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM and announced the following:

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Chair Elizabeth Dings announced the essay contest winners, noting the high quality of all submissions.

- First Place (\$2,000): Sam Downes – “From Outsiders to Neighbors: The Story of Italian Immigrants in Hingham.”
- Second Place (\$500): Carrie Finnerty – “Eleanor Roosevelt in Hingham.”
- Third Place (\$250): Shelby McConnell – “The Conservation of World’s End.”

Winners Sam Downes and Shelby McConnell were present and were congratulated by the committee. Sam shared appreciation for the opportunity and noted the personal connection to family history. Everyone commented on the strong quality of all the essays and the educational value, highlighting new insights into local history. They all mentioned how difficult it was to choose the winners and the order of prizes. All members expressed enthusiasm for continued student engagement and hoped to repeat the contest next year.

Administrator Gaul will follow up with winners regarding prize distribution.

2. GREENBUSH GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Applicants:

- Samuel and Kara Zeiberg, 3 Fort Hill Street
- James and Camille Colantonio, 10 Green Street

- Tim and Jessica Sandifer, 174 North Street
- Hingham Community Center, 70 South Street
- John Winter, 228 South Street
- Chris McKenna, 207 South Street

Administrator Gaul presented the compiled scoring results, explaining that final award amounts were calculated by averaging members' scores, consistent with the prior year's process. She also noted that Commissioner Jiranek recused himself from voting.

Commission members each discussed their evaluation approaches:

- Chair Dings prioritized funding individual homeowners, particularly those impacted by train-related damage, and favored exterior restoration projects over interior work. She did not support funding the Community Center due to prior funding and additional Community Preservation grants funds that they have received.
- Commissioner Concannon distributed funds proportionally (approximately 45%) across all applicants due to limited available funding.
- Commissioner Stansell also prioritized homeowners, generally funding around 75% of requests, while allocating a smaller amount to the Community Center while also recognizing its community value.
- Commissioner Warren supported full funding for the Community Center due to ADA compliance needs, while also acknowledging the impact of train damage on homeowners.
- Commissioner Peters prioritized structural needs, especially window replacements, and excluded the Community Center due to its history of prior funding and other grant sources.
- Commissioner Hayes emphasized assisting the most severely impacted properties, particularly those in poor condition or heavily affected by the train.

Chair Dings asked if anyone wanted to change the proposed award amounts. There were no proposed changes. Final grant awards totaling \$100,000 were announced as follows:

- 174 North Street: \$20,171.56
- 207 South Street: \$36,895.71
- 3 Fort Hill Street: \$18,858.46
- 228 South Street: \$9,495.93
- Hingham Community Center: \$7,066.28
- 10 Green Street: \$7,512.06

There was no further discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Hayes to approve the grant awards as presented.

Second by Commissioner Stansell

Roll call vote:

Concannon – Aye

Peters - Aye

Stansell – Aye

Warren - Aye

Hayes – Aye

Dings - Aye

OTHER BUSINESS**Administrative Items**

Administrator Gaul announced that several members of the Commission plan to step down. They are:

- Commissioner Warren - will roll off at the end of June due to scheduling constraints.
- Commissioner Jiranek - also stepping down due to other commitments.
- Commissioner Stansell – needs to cut back due to other obligations. He has agreed to remain available on a temporary basis if needed to maintain a quorum.

Chair Dings and Administrator Gaul thanked them all for their service and expressed appreciation to Commissioner Stansell for his six years of involvement and willingness to assist as needed.

Chair Dings and Administrator Gaul stated that due to potential short-term quorum issues (possibly only four members in July), members should notify Administrator Gaul in advance of any absences so Commissioner Stansell can step in if necessary.

A vote was suggested to reappoint Commissioner Stansell to a standard three-year term (through June 30, 2029), with the understanding that he may step down earlier once new members are appointed.

Motion by Chair Dings to reappoint Commissioner Stansell to a standard three-year term ending June 30, 2029.

Second by Commissioner Warren

Roll call vote:

Peters - Aye
Hayes – Aye
Warren - Aye
Stansell – Aye
Concannon – Aye
Dings - Aye

Motion passes

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was deferred until the next meeting

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stansell

Second by Commissioner Warren

Roll call vote:

Hayes – Aye
Concannon – Aye
Peters - Aye
Warren - Aye

Stansell – Aye

Dings - Aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted Robin Gorfine, Recording Secretary