



**BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall, Boston, MA, 02201  
held virtually via Zoom

APPROVED BY COMMISSION  
April 14, 2026

**MARCH 24, 2026**

**I. BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION BUSINESS HEARING 6:00 PM**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** John Amodeo, Celina Barrios-Millner, John Freeman, Jeffrey Gonyeau, Jeffrey Heyne, Felicia Jacques, Justine Orlando (Vice-Chair), Brad Walker (Chair), Angela Ward-Hyatt.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Christopher Hart, Kirsten Hoffman, Senam Kumahia, Lindsey Mac-Jones, Fadi Samaha.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Director of Design Review, Joseph Cornish; Architectural Historian, Jennifer Gaugler; Deputy Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, Elizabeth Sherva.

**6:04 PM:** Commissioner Walker called the public hearing to order. He explained that, pursuant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, that the public hearing was being conducted virtually via the online meeting platform Zoom in order to review Design Review applications. He also briefly explained how to participate in the online hearing. There were no members of the press present.

The Chair announced that the Commission would next review the Ratification of Meeting Minutes.

**II. HEARING MINUTES**

Review and ratification of Public Hearing Minutes from 3/10/26 meeting.

**COMMISSIONER ORLANDO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**COMMISSIONER HEYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**THE VOTE WAS 8-0-0 (Y: FJ, JF, JO, BW, JG, JA, AWH, JH ) (N: NONE) (ABS: NONE).**

The Chair announced that the Commission would next review Administrative Review/Approval applications.



### III. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL

- APP #23.0855 BLC BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN:** Extend 2024 approval for the renovation of existing Tool Shed and construction of a new Parks Facilities building with minor landscape changes to accommodate new programming to 3-6-2027.
- APP #26.0708 FPC 15 CHANNEL CENTER ST:** Repair existing entrance canopy and repaint steel support beams.
- APP #26.0703 BLC CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH COMPLEX PLAZA:** Remove and replace brick pavers at plaza as part of an ongoing waterproofing project.
- APP #26.0724 BLC CITY SQUARE PARK, CHARLESTOWN:** Improvements to City Square Park, including restoration of WWII Memorial, restoration of bronze plaques, re-setting of brick pathways, and installation of root barriers.
- APP #26.0700 BLC OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE, 277 WASHINGTON ST:** Rebuild non-historic infill masonry wall between 277 Washington Street (Cunningham House) and Pi Alley Garage.
- APP #26.0711 BLC OLD NORTH CHURCH, 193 SALEM ST:** Rebuild steps at Lantern Garden.
- APP #26.0696 SB 142 ST. BOTOLPH ST:** Remove and replace 13 windows with dark bronze fibrex windows.
- APP #26.0713 BLC QUINCY MARKET, 206 SOUTH MARKET ST:** Exterior maintenance of existing windows and glass sheds in the North, South, and Quincy Market buildings. Existing windows will be repaired and painted along with the glass shed structure, mullions, garage doors, and entry doors.

The administrative review applications were read into the record by the Design Review Subcommittee Chair Orlando.

**COMMISSIONER ORLANDO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ITEMS. COMMISSIONER HEYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.  
THE VOTE WAS 8-0-0 (Y: FJ, JF, JO, BW, JG, JA, AWH, JH ) (N: NONE) (ABS: NONE).**

The Chair announced that the Commission would next review petitions, study reports, and designation.



6:14pm Commissioner Celina Barrios-Millner joined the meeting.

#### IV. PETITIONS, STUDY REPORTS, & DESIGNATIONS

##### # 147.89 - COPLEY PLAZA, BACK BAY

Presentation of [Study Report](#), public feedback and discussion on Study Report. Vote to accept Study Report & designate.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED:** Documents presented included the study report, a letter received from the owner, and a letter received from the Back Bay Association .

**OWNER COMMENTS:** Tabish Siddiquie, representing the owner, and Doug Kelleher, consultant to the owner, requested that designation of the Oval Room be limited to the shape and volume. They also requested the exclusion of the St. James and Singleton rooms, stating that both rooms used to be painted much lighter and had received alterations. They also stated that both rooms were more private in nature, they are open to guests but receive less foot traffic.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jamie McNeil, general agent for union #26 for hotel workers spoke in support of landmarking. He asked that the commission consider including the Longbar, Venetian Room, Copley Room, and Sargent Room in the designation. Particularly the Longbar. Even with alterations since 1912, the original ceiling remains along with aspects of the walls and the metal rail in the floor from the carousel that used to be there. Little things that guests and travelers to Boston adore.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** Commissioners, specifically Gonyeau and Freeman, discussed reasons to keep the Singleton and St. James rooms in the Study Report. Commissioners stated that the commission should always err on the side of preservation. The study report provides good documentation and guidance. Commissioners also stated that the Longbar had received a lot of changes including the volume itself.



**COMMISSIONER AMODEO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE STUDY REPORT FOR THE COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL.**

**COMMISSIONER JACQUES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**THE VOTE WAS 9-0-0 (Y: FJ, JF, JO, BW, CBM, JG, JA, JH, AWH ) (N: NONE) (ABS: NONE).**

**COMMISSIONER GONYEAU MOVED TO DESIGNATE THE COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL AS A LANDMARK.**

**COMMISSIONER AMODEO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**THE VOTE WAS 9-0-0 (Y: JA, CBM, JF, JG, JH, FJ, JO, BW, AWH ) (N: NONE) (ABS: NONE).**

## **V. STAFF UPDATES**

Elizabeth Sherva, Deputy Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, announced that the next BLC Hearing will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6pm.

Elizabeth announced that at the Massachusetts Historical Commission meeting on March 11, 2026, the commission met to vote on FY26 survey and planning grants. A grant was awarded to the Boston Landmarks Commission to conduct a Chinatown Survey Update. While many buildings in Chinatown have been inventoried, many have not. Additionally, the inventoried buildings were documented over 20 years ago.

Elizabeth also announced that Jennifer Doherty, formerly the Local Governments Coordinator at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has started a newsletter hosted on Substack titled Preservation Across the Commonwealth. Her newsletter highlights grant opportunities, links to local preservation news articles, lists RFPs and Buildings for sale, along with providing information on historical commissions across the Commonwealth. She recommended commissioners subscribe to see what is happening statewide in historic preservation.

Elizabeth also shared that the MHC has purchased a subscription to the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions for all Certified Local Governments. BLC is a recipient of such a subscription. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions puts out a quarterly publication. She stated that she would send a PDF of the publication to everyone following the meeting.

## **VI. ADJOURN – 6:48 PM**



City of Boston  
Landmarks Commission



City of Boston  
Mayor Michelle Wu

**COMMISSIONER HEYNE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE HEARING.  
COMMISSIONER ORLANDO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
A VOICE VOTE WAS CALLED AND ALL COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VOTED TO  
ADJOURN.**