

# Preservation News

## *Today's Historical Swampscott*

### 2020 Preservation Awards

The Historical Commission has closed its nomination period to be considered for a preservation award. Nomination submission deadline was January 31, 2020. The Commission met to choose among the submissions, and will be sending notification letters to those who will receive an award. The Commission will complete research on any missing historic details of submitted properties and will queue up the plaque orders. Details of when the award presentation ceremony will occur will be made by the spring and shared with the winners. See more details of the program on our page on the town website, or our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/swampscotthistoricalcommission/?ref=bookmarks](https://www.facebook.com/swampscotthistoricalcommission/?ref=bookmarks)

### ***Railroad Depot***

The Town continues discussions in 2020, to negotiate options with the MBTA and its real estate group, for either purchase of the Railroad Depot by the Town of Swampscott, or else, a long term lease arrangement. Before maintenance or restoration can occur, the town needs to obtain an arrangement from the MBTA that would give the town control to implement repair and reuse. The town would also be able to apply for a Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) grant to fund costs for restoration. Most recently the MBTA did repair the leaking roof with similar historic materials. But a real restoration needs to be undertaken to preserve the historic building and maintain its architectural character.

Earlier in February, the town met with a clock repair company to investigate the cost to repair the clock at the Railroad Depot. Plans are underway to fund this repair whether by the town or shared with the MBTA. Installation of the new clock should happen soon.



## Preservation of the Fish House

Swampscott's \$100,000 allocation from the state budget approved by Governor Baker is earmarked for Fish House repairs and renovations.

With roof repair complete, the grant application to fund further repairs, will be resubmitted for the March deadline. The revised plan is for a more holistic approach to the restoration effort.

With additional funds from the grant, more of the required repairs can be undertaken as we come into spring.

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If you would like to support the Commission's programs and events, please send your check donation to the town hall, designated as a gift for the Historical Commission. A sample donation letter is on our Commission page of the town website.

- ♦ Kim Barry, Newsletter Editor
- ♦ Photo Credit: Railroad Depot, Wikipedia

## *Preservation Assessment of Town-Wide Collections*

A grant opportunity from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is offering a program for towns to identify and fund a town-wide historic archive. This program focuses on a preservation assessment of collections in a community. It is the first step in the process of preserving, organizing, and eventually sharing historically significant local collections in Massachusetts towns. The candidate public library and its other local repositories will receive a preservation assessment conducted by an MBLC-hired consultant.

The MBLC consultant will help the candidate library among other things, identify the conservation treatment of archives including storage, handling, and security suggestions; help determine priority of archive items; evaluate the buildings housing archives and provide suggested steps to prolong the life of the materials; review policies and procedures for collection management; assist in identifying collections of significance within town archives that could become candidates for digitization.

The \$30,000 grant is offered to public libraries and it is a one year program. The library who receives the grant must submit their collection management priorities at the end of the grant period.

The grant application is due in March, and is being led by the Swampscott Public Library on behalf of town archives and key locations for assessment: the Swampscott Library, the Historical Commission collection at 86 Burrill St, the Historical Society collection at the John Humphrey House, Town Hall archives, and possibly Police and Fire station archives. There is a vast amount of paper records, photographs, and objects in each collection that are not inventoried or catalogued. Most of the collections are in need of preservation work to prolong their lives and to enable them to be handled.