



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #185
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 30, 2025

I am writing to recommend the following appointments and reappointments of members and alternates to the Cambridge Historical Commission for terms of one, two, and three years, effective June 30, 2025. These are revised based on the conversation had at the Government Operations meeting held on June 25, 2025.

New Appointments

Florrie Darwin, 7 Follen Street. Ms. Darwin, a **lawyer**, is an educator in the Program on Negotiation at the Harvard Law School. From 1991 through May 2024, she served as chair of the Cambridge Rent Control Board, member and chair of the Planning Board, and trustee of the Affordable Housing Trust. **Appoint as an alternate for a three-year term ending 6/30/28.**

Scott Kyle, 15 Clifton Street. Mr. Kyle is a semi-retired general contractor with 40 years' experience doing residential construction in the Boston area. He served on the Lexington Historic District Commission from 2006 until 2011. **Appoint as an alternate for a three-year term ending 6/30/28.**

Michael Rogove, 65 Sparks Street, is a software engineer who has resided in Cambridge for many years; he is currently a tenant in the Huron Village area. Until recently he served as Secretary to the board of the Livable Streets Alliance, an advocacy organization. **Appoint as an alternate for a three-year term ending 6/30/28.**

Reappointments

Chandra Harrington (Chair), 360 Concord Avenue. Member since 2005, term expired 6/26/23. Ms. Harrington is a fourth generation Cambridge resident, a retired museum executive, and an active member of the Cambridge Black History Trail Committee. She serves as the Commission representative on the Community Preservation Committee. **Reappoint for a one-year term ending 6/30/26.**

Joseph Ferrara, 195 Brattle Street. Member since 2009, term expired 7/7/23. Mr. Ferrara is the president and CEO of Veranex Solutions, a life-sciences consulting company. He serves as the **required nominee of the Cambridge Historical Society**. He is a resident of the Old Cambridge Historic District and has experience in architecture, which he practiced from 1985 until 1996. **Reappoint for a one-year term ending 6/30/26.**



Kyle Sheffield, 13 Ellsworth Avenue. Alternate since 2016, term expired 7/20/22. Mr. Sheffield is a practicing architect at Blue Hour Design. **Appoint as a member for a one-year term ending 6/30/26.**

Gavin Kleespies, 26 Cpl. McTernan Street. Alternate since 2017, term expired 10/18/23. Mr. Kleespies began his career in local history at the age of 13 as a Harvard Square tour guide. He served as Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Society and is now President of Gore Place, an historic house museum in Waltham. He is also the City's representative to the Massachusetts 250th Commission. **Appoint as a member for a two-year term ending 6/30/2027.**

Paula Paris, 169 Fayerweather Street. Alternate since 2017, term expired 10/18/23. Ms. Paris is a lifelong resident of West Cambridge. She is Deputy Director of the educational non-profit JFY NetWorks, which prepares underserved youth for college and the workplace and is an active member of the Cambridge Black History Committee. **Appoint as a member for a two-year term ending 6/30/2027.**

Elizabeth Lyster, 62 Kinnaird Street. Member since 2019, term expired 12/18/22. Ms. Lyster is the **required nominee of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board. Reappoint for a two-year term ending on 6/30/2027**

Yuting Zhang, 169 Msgr. O'Brien Highway. Member since 2022, term expired 2/28/25. Ms. Zhang is the **required nominee of the Boston Society of Architects.** She is a practicing architect and principal at Studio RE + N. **Reappoint for a two-year term ending 6/30/2027**

The City Manager's office posted a request for applications for the Cambridge Historical Commission (CHC) on the City website and via a news release on November 15, 2024, with a closing date of December 16, 2024, which was later extended to January 27, 2025. During that time, the CHC advertised the vacancies on the CHC website and CHC social media channels (7,000+ followers). Outreach to the Boston Society of Landscape Architects (required by our ordinance) was conducted, but a response was not received. The call for applicants was also posted in a City press release, the Daily Update newsletters, the website, and social media. There were twenty-one applicants, eleven of whom were interviewed (six of whom were interviewed a second time with the Deputy City Manager). The interview panel, made up of City staff members and the CHC chairperson, has recommended the appointment of three of those applicants.

The proposed distribution of one, two and three-year terms is intended to bring the Historical Commission into compliance with its enabling legislation. MGL Ch. 40C states, "The appointments to membership in the commission shall be so arranged that the term of at least one member will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for terms of three years. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term."

In our initial recommendation, proposed terms were randomly assigned to existing and new members listed in alphabetical order: In our revised recommendation, the longest serving Commission members are assigned the shortest terms, and the new appointments all receive three-year terms:

	Term in Years	Member or Alternate
Harrington, Chandra	1	Member
Joseph Ferrara	1	Member
Kyle Sheffield	1	Member
Lyster, Elizabeth	2	Member
Paris, Paula	2	Member
Kleespies, Gavin	2	Member
Zhang, Yuting	2	Member
Darwin, Florrie	3	Alternate
Kyle, Scott	3	Alternate
Rogove, Michael	3	Alternate

For those long-serving members whose terms expire in one year, and others whose terms expire in two years, their service on the Historical Commission need not stop at that time. They may continue to serve if, after a recruitment and interview process of prospective new candidates, they are renominated and subsequently approved by City Council.

I appreciate the willingness of these community members to serve on the Cambridge Historical Commission and, with your approval, look forward to their appointments.