

CITATION

Brookline Select Board

The Brookline Select Board expressing its appreciation to

Kenneth “Ken” Liss

for his exemplary service and scholarship in preserving and sharing the history
of Brookline

WHEREAS the Brookline Select Board rightfully honors those exemplary Brookline residents whose civic work, scholarship, and leadership have enriched the cultural and civic life of our Town; and

WHEREAS Kenneth “Ken” Liss has served for many years as President of the Brookline Historical Society, leading the organization in its mission to preserve, interpret, and promote Brookline’s heritage; and

WHEREAS under the leadership of Ken Liss, the Historical Society has maintained and interpreted Brookline’s historic properties, including the Edward Devotion House — one of the Town’s oldest colonial-era structures and headquarters of the Society — as well as the Widow Harris House and the Putterham School at Larz Anderson Park, thereby preserving tangible links to Brookline’s colonial and early history; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has developed and led walking tours and virtual tours of Brookline neighborhoods and commercial corridors, such as “*A Century and a Half of Shopping in Coolidge Corner*,” bringing to life the stories of the people and places that have shaped our community; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has overseen the Historical Society’s expansion of online resources, making Brookline’s history widely accessible through digital archives, photo collections, neighborhood histories, and innovative “then and now” features; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has contributed important research on topics of civic and social significance, including the study of Brookline’s racially restrictive covenants, published as “*Thomas Aspinwall Davis, Amos Lawrence, and Brookline Racial Covenants*,” which have helped the Town and its residents confront difficult aspects of our past with honesty and rigor; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has worked with other local public historians and educators to provide historical details and documentation for their projects, such as *Hidden Brookline*, which provides walking tours and uncovers and educates the public about the history of enslaved people in the Town and the efforts of Town residents to undermine and abolish slavery; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has served as an important and vital public historian, giving lectures, writing extensively for the Historical Society’s website, and contributing articles and commentary to *Brookline.News* and other local outlets, where his “Brookline Past & Present” features have illuminated the historical context of contemporary issues; and

WHEREAS Ken Liss has worked in partnership with Town officials, schools, civic groups, and cultural institutions such as the Public Library of Brookline, using history to strengthen community connections and inform public discourse; and

WHEREAS through these many contributions, Ken Liss has helped generations of residents and students engage more fully with Brookline’s unique past, deepened civic understanding of the Town’s development, and inspired appreciation for the role of history in shaping our collective identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING, on this 6th Day of January 2026, the Brookline Select Board, on behalf of the residents of Brookline, hereby acknowledges, commends, and thanks **Kenneth “Ken” Liss** for his outstanding and sustained contributions to the Town of Brookline’s historical preservation, public education, and civic life, and expresses its deepest gratitude for his scholarship, stewardship, and leadership.



Brookline Select Board

Bernard Greene, Chair

David Pearlman, Vice Chair

John VanScoyoc

Paul Warren

Michael Rubenstein