

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commission of January 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held via Zoom video call on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners: John Andruszkiewicz, Michael Bonfanti, Jeff Budd, Dave Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Andy Metropolis and Cheryl Millard. Absent were commissioners: Lola Busta.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Bonfanti.

Chairman's Remarks: I will step down if anyone else wants the position of chairman. Cheryl is stepping down as vice chair. Jeff has been a tremendous help and we've talked about him assuming the chair. He can't do so immediately so I will serve until he is ready if that's what everyone wants.

Motion made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to close nominations and elect Jeff Budd as Chairman with Mike Bonfanti remaining until Jeff is ready and elect Deborah Eskenazi as vice chairman. Motion passed: unanimous.

Correspondence: 1) From the Historical Society – the date on the gravestone in the Jacob Cemetery doesn't match the sign date of death; 2) Mass Historical Commission is looking at 10 Chestnut because Joe Ruggiero applied for an SBA loan. When applying for a government loan, requirements change and they look at the scope of work. Mike passed it onto Curt Bellavance and told him this project has been mishandled since day one. This reinforces that the PHC has a role.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to approve the minutes of both the regular meeting of November 19, 2020 and the special meeting of December 19, 2020. Motion passed: unanimous.

Committee Reports: 16 Crowninshield St: 1) They sent a check for signs for the new park; 2) Winn has started work on the mansion. No one told them to come before PHC when they pulled permits. There was a discussion about the current language in the demolition delay ordinance. Members feel it is unclear and needs to be tightened up. Currently, the ordinance only applies to total demolitions not partials. Mike suggests making changes to clarify full and partial, let the city's attorney review, let the Mayor review and bring to the council to make the change; 3) Historic districts have to be brought to the Building Commissioner's attention. There should also be links on our website so residents can self-help and signage showing where the districts are.

Subcommittee on Regulations & Ordinance Revision: 1) Jeff is in charge of this committee and is working with Debbie & John. He would like more PHC input on the demo delay ordinance wording to come up with language to present to the Mayor and Council; 2) the historic map should be on the website so people can identify whether they're in one; 3) the subcommittee should meet with the Mayor and Building Inspector to explain that PHC has to be informed when a permit is pulled on a property in the district.

Old Business: Educational Exchange Program: Dave would like to put this off until 2023. There has been no change.

Re-Establishment of Civics Program: This was brought to the city and should be removed as it is in their hands now.

Historic House Markers: This is still being worked on. 1) Debbie & Cheryl would like to apply for a CPC grant to help pay some of the cost of house markers; 2) There was a discussion about historic district signage, what they should say, should the map be put on them. Debbie & Cheryl will take pictures of the existing signs. Signs will need to go before sign review.

PHC Website: on hold until we can get prices for plaques and the demo delay guidelines finalized. This will let people self-help in finding out if they're in a historic district. The information will also be added to the tri-fold brochure.

Centralized PHC File and Filing System: 1) the city has given us permission to locate PHC files at the Geo. Peabody House & has purchased two file cabinets for use. There is a 3rd cabinet and several boxes for PHC use. Mike is maintaining 2020 records.

Cemeteries: Mike has gotten calls re: abandoned cemeteries. People want to help. Dick St. Pierre would like to have a similar group like Salem has to clean and maintain cemeteries. He may go before the CPC to see if he can get a grant to repair some. Mike told him to do his homework as he may have to also come before PHC and it can get expensive.

Motion by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to have Mike write to the city and request "No trespass, no loitering, no dumping" signs for cemeteries. Motion passed: unanimous.

Establishment of program to provide funds to help homeowners in historic districts: Mike would like to apply for a CPC grant to help low-income homeowners of historical properties keep their homes historic. Community Development is in the process of creating the program.

16 Crowninshield proposed park & monument: Winn sent a check for signage. A ceremony to dedicate the park will be help in the future.

Remarks by Commissioners:

John Andruszkiewicz: Nothing to add.

Jeff Budd: things looking up, hopefully we'll be back to some normalcy by the fall.

Lola Busta: Absent

Dave Cronin: Nothing to add.

Debby Eskenazi: Would like to remind the city about 18 Crowninshield. Mike will call and remind them it is a historic building and that they should've notified PHC. He would like to meet with the Building Commissioner.

Frank Hardy: Nothing to add.

Dianne Marchese: Will send CPC app to Debbie & Cheryl and help them fill it out and go before the Committee when they are ready.

Andy Metropolis: Will help Mike move files.

Cheryl Millard: Asked if Mike needs help and if files can be stored at the Sutton House. (that's up to Jeff and yes, Mike can use help).

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. by Dave Cronin, seconded by Frank Hardy. Motion passed: unanimous.