

Peabody Historical Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commission of May 20, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Smith Barn, Felton St., Peabody. Present were Commissioners: John Andruszkiewicz, Michael Bonfanti, Jeff Budd, Dave Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Andy Metropolis and Cheryl Millard. Absent was Commissioner Carolina Busta. Also present: Julie Andy.

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

Chairman's Remarks: 1) I invited the Mayor to our meeting. He sent word back that he appreciates being kept in the loop; 2) introduced Julie Andy – she & Ruthann Hoffman have been busy cleaning cemeteries. They cleaned the Gardner Burial Ground on Birch Street. It was a jungle but now looks good. We need to get a sign. If anyone sees trash, signs of someone living in a cemetery when they're out flagging veterans' graves, let Mike know. He's asked for no littering signs for all the cemeteries; 3) Gail Stockton called him because someone is cutting down trees on Birch St, which is a scenic way. According to state law, any work done on a scenic way has to be approved by the Planning Board. Tom Gould & Marc O'Neill were notified and are going to get signage so residents and developers know it's a scenic way. There are four in the city: Birch, Forest, Goodale and Winona; 4) 43 Main St sent an email re: façade changes. There are no issues; 5) Mike is going to ask the Society if the Commission can keep files at one of their properties; 6) In flagging Wilson Cemetery, they couldn't find some graves. He would like to have medallions added to the stones and PVC pipe installed to make it easier to place flags. 7) The Building Commissioner is aware of the work being done on Gardner Road;

Correspondence: Email from Julie Andy re: Cemetery Clean-up
Email from Olio re: façade improvements

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** duly made by Jeff Budd and seconded by Jon Andruszkiewicz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 15, 2021. Motion passed: unanimous.

Committee Reports: 16 Crowninshield St: The chimney has been removed and painted beige. Debby is going to find out when the ceremony will be. Cheryl asked that signs be placed so people pick up after their dogs.

Subcommittee on Regulations & Ordinance Revision: Jeff is going to request a meeting with AI to review the Demo Delay Ordinance, get AI's perspective and craft a new one with Andy.

Old Business: Signage Discussion & Motion: Mike will send a letter to the Mayor requesting signage at Gardner, Needham and South Cemeteries. Debby is going to follow up with Curt Bellavance for the Historic District and Cemetery signs.

PHC Website: The website is all up to date. The cemetery information is on there. There was a discussion about adding links to the Building Inspection Dept., PiP maps, MACRIS, and MAPGEO.

Cemeteries: Julie Andy & Ruthann Hoffman are cleaning cemeteries (see attached email, dated 5/2/21, for update). Their kids are older and this is something they decided to do. There was a brief discussion about "Adopting a Cemetery" and re-instituting Bill Power's organization to maintain them as well as the need to have neighbors take care of their own. The Mayor likes the Adopt a Cemetery idea.

Funding for Low-Income Homeowners of Historic Properties: This is still in the works.

Visit to J Upton House 5/22 & 5/24, 1:00 p.m. both days: Mike reminded everyone that they are welcome.

2 Washington St/St. Paul's Church Updates: Ed Greeley purchased the properties but told Mike it would take him a few years to get financing. The city made a deal with the Church to save the windows and put up a plaque. Ed would like to save the pews & organ. Our mission is to make sure they do what they said they would.

10 Chestnut: Con Comm removed their order. It's moving along.

New Business: Memorial Day Flagging: there are still 6 cemeteries left to be flagged. Dave suggests asking DPW to downsize the maps.

Inventory of Properties on Commission's Residential & Commercial Lists, with the Goal to Update our Demo Delay & add Significant Properties to MHC Inventory: No Updates

St. John's Church 150th Anniversary: Frank, Andy and Mike are providing information to add to what St. John's already has. Frank is going to try to go to the meeting on June 3rd to get more information. Mike suggested they get a copy of St. Vasilios's 100th anniversary program book as a guide.

Remarks by Commissioners:

John Andruszkiewicz: Nothing to add.

Jeff Budd: Nothing to add.

Lola Busta: Absent.

Dave Cronin: Nothing to add.

Debby Eskenazi: Nothing to add.

Frank Hardy: Nothing to add.

Dianne Marchese: Nothing to add.

Andy Metropolis: Nothing to add.

Cheryl Millard: Nothing to add.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for June 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Smith Barn.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by Dave Cronin, seconded by Jeff Budd. Motion passed: unanimous.