

Peabody Historical Commission

Minutes of January 23, 2020 Commission Meeting

The regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held at the Peabody Institute Library Trustees Room on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Gerald Bellew, Michael Bonfanti, Carolina Busta, David Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Cheryl Millard and Andy Metropolis. Absent was Vincent Raponi. Also present were Dick St. Pierre (PHS President), Jeff Budd & Sudi Smoller.

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

Motion made by Dave Cronin to approve the regular Committee minutes of November 21, 2019 as presented and was seconded by Frank Hardy. A roll call vote was taken.

All in favor: Yes. Opposed: No. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman's Remarks: 1) Introduced Sudi Smoller for her presentation; 2) Vinny Raponi resigned due to family matters; 3) I am happy to be chair one more year; 4) Introduced Jeff Budd. Jeff & John Andrewskevich's names have been sent to the Mayor to be sworn in as commissioners. Jeff has lived in Peabody 32 years, raised his children & feels it's time to give back.; 5) Frank Hardy will be Dave Cronin's alternate to Community Preservation; 6) 2020's schedule was in this week's packet. Let me know if there are conflicts; 7) the annual report has been sent to the Mayor.

Discussions/Presentations: Sudi Smoller discussed her project Votes for Women National Trail Resource. The 100th anniversary of women's right to vote is 8/26/20. This trail will feature information about events that transpired before that date. Sudi would like to nominate Mary Upton Ferrin who started her work in 1848. The Peabody Institute Library Trustees have voted to name the West Branch community room after her and may set up a small display. In March, the West Branch is hosting a presentation of women's struggles. Sudi is hoping to republish her book and is seeking PHC support. There was a discussion about other Peabody women involved in women's rights including Martha Orphelia Stevens. The committee likes the idea of recognizing people and suggested she go to Community Presentation for funding. Mike Bonfanti is happy to write a letter of support.

Motion made by Gerry Bellew to write a letter of support for Sudi Smoller's application, Votes for Women National Trail Resource, as presented and was seconded by Dave Cronin. A roll call vote was taken.

All in favor: Yes. Opposed: No. The motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Correspondence: Mass Historical is looking for nominations. Mike Schulze has been suggested. PHC can send a letter of support.

Educational Exchange Program: Frank: Met with Chris Ryder & Beth O'Donnell and gave them the documentation to establish a civics class at PVMHS and how to continue the exchange program.

Children's Museum: Debby & Cheryl still want to be on the committee. They're still fundraising and have asked for \$50,000 from the Society. Debby and Cheryl will attend meetings and get any questions answered. The Commission suggested using the carriage house instead of the main house.

Old Business

Historic House Markers: The Sutton House marker is being worked on. They made the changes as suggested.

Website Creation for PHC: The website will be updated as soon as sign pricing is finalized.

10 Chestnut Street Special Permit: Owner will keep PHC informed. It's going to be a funeral home with minor changes to the exterior on the right side.

Bowditch House: Neither the Mayor or PHS want the house but the Mayor is ok with putting up a plaque or monument.

Doppler Radar: A letter was sent to the Mayor.

143 Lynnfield St.: Kelly is researching for historical nature. The building has deteriorated. PHC would be happy to put up a plaque.

Turkish Documentary: Went well. Mike spoke to PATV about doing a documentary on leather factories.

Housing Program/CPC Funding: Mike Schulze loves the idea. I'd like to get this started while I'm away. There will be an emphasize for affordable housing with a historical twist. We need to come up with guidelines.

Commission Portrait: Curt will reimburse Cheryl for the cost of the frame. It was suggested to hang it in the second floor of the Geo. Peabody House.

New Business

Leave of Absence for Mike Bonfanti: Mike will be in Florida for two months.

Remarks by Commission Members:

Dianne: Nothing to add.

Jerry: Thanked everyone for his years on the Commission. He's enjoyed it.

Lola: Nothing to add.

Dave: Nothing to add.

Debby: Nothing to add.

Frank: Nothing to add.

Andy: Nothing to add.

Cheryl: Nothing to add.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for January 23rd at 6:00pm at the Geo. Peabody House & Civic Center, 205 Washington Street.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.: Dave Cronin/Cheryl Millard