

Peabody Historical Commission

Minutes of October 17, 2019 Commission Meeting

The regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held at the Peabody Institute Library Trustees Room on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Gerald Bellew, Michael Bonfanti, Carolina Busta, David Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Cheryl Millard and Vincent Raponi. Absent were: Andy Metropolis.

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

Motion made by Debby Eskenazi to approve the regular Committee minutes of September 19, 2019 as presented and was seconded by Cheryl Millard. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Chairman's Remarks: 1) I've been in touch with Community Preservation Chair Mike Schulze to see what we can and can't do. Stacey Bernson is going to write a grant to help fund cemetery markers, house markers, paint, etc for historical preservation. There would be income guidelines and a tie-in to historical restoration. The Commission will have a sub-committee to review each application and vote on it; 2) I met with Dick St. Pierre re: space on the 2nd floor of the Geo. Peabody House. We're waiting for the cabinets so we can put files up there; 3) there is a street naming for Mike Schulze at Brooksby on Saturday, Oct. 26th.

Committee Reports

Educational Exchange Program: Frank: no changes from our last meeting. Andy & I are still waiting to meet with the Mayor but I may mail him the information.

Children's Museum: Mike: an email was sent to (Cultural Collaborative) members who replied they are all too busy. This is the Mayor's pet project. The Commission agrees it is a good idea we just disagree and want to be kept in the loop. Dick (St. Pierre): it's been successful and they're close to selecting a permanent location but it may take 18 months to convert it. They followed through and cleaned the Geo. Peabody house as promised.

Old Business

Historic House Markers: Debby & Cheryl should have a prototype for the Sutton House in wood. Dianne heard from Econo Print and sent them the information they need. She's just waiting for pricing.

Website Creation for PHC: This is a living document, we need to be able to make changes.

Commission Portrait: This will be taken by Cheryl in November at the Geo. Peabody House.

Partnering with Boy Scouts to clean up cemeteries: We need ways of cleaning up cemeteries. Some ideas are to give to an Eagle Scout to clean up then have the scouts commit to annual cleanings, form a community group or ask the schools and/or churches if they have students in need of community service hours. The city doesn't have the money or staff to maintain them. Gerry mentioned a program in Acton that uses the HS students.

10 Chestnut Street Special Permit: Mike spoke to (building inspector) Dan Terenzoni and told him there is a demolition delay order on the building. The owner, Pat Todisco, called Mike and told him he would do whatever is needed. They aren't changing on the outside except in the back for fire safety. There will be valet parking. He is

going to send Mike a schematic. Mike mentioned historic markers for his property too – he’s willing to put them up at his own expense.

New Business

Historic Marker for Sutton House for Women: Waiting for the prototype.

Bowditch House: No action.

Remarks by Commission Members:

Dianne: Nothing to add.

Jerry: Nothing to add.

Lola: Asked about a calendar (PMLP does one now using historical photos).

Dave: Nothing to add.

Debby: Nothing to add.

Frank: Nothing to add.

Andy: Absent.

Cheryl: Nothing to add.

Vinnie: Nothing to add.

Mike: Dick was here to hear what we had to say.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for November 21, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Geo. Peabody House & Civic Center, 205 Washington Street.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.: Gerry Bellew/Dave Cronin.