

# Peabody Historical Commission

---

## Minutes of November 21, 2019 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.

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

Motion made by Andy Metropolis to approve the regular Committee minutes of October 17, 2019 as presented and was seconded by Lola Busta. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Chairman's Remarks: 1) The Mayor is going before the council tonight to talk about using the O'Shea building for the Children's Museum; 2) This committee has sent several letters to the Mayor regarding the Bowditch House but has received no response; 3) I took a ride by 15 Franklin Street. It looks like they vinyl-sided instead of painting; 4) I spoke to Pat Todisco re: 10 Chestnut. There is only one minor façade change to a window. He is willing to help put signs downtown; 5) The 40 Oak St. (Elks) development is on the agenda for Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Historical Society property abuts theirs. We cut a deal with the Elks years ago to allow them to use the property. If it's sold, the property is returned to the society.

### Committee Reports

Educational Exchange Program: Frank: no changes from our last meeting. I told Darryl we are still waiting to meet with the Mayor but haven't heard anything.

Children's Museum: Mike: we'll know what transpired tonight. We'll send a letter to the Mayor and Curt reminding them that the Commission must be kept informed before changes are made. Andy suggested making the barn the museum and using the house for something else. There was a brief discussion if this changes the criteria for the CPA funds that were used to purchase the house. If so, the money has to be returned to the CPA.

### Old Business

Historic House Markers: Debby showed the prototype for the Sutton House in wood. Lobel Signs charged \$45.00, the Commission will charge \$50. There are a few changes to the sign (make the back flat so it rests against the house & put a nail hole). Cheryl is going to ask the Sutton House board if they can have a ceremony when they hang the sign.

Website Creation for PHC: The website is still in process. The information about the historical signs can be added to the trifold brochure and that can be printed.

Commission Portrait: Done!

10 Chestnut Street Special Permit: See Chairman's remarks above.

New Business

Historic Marker for Sutton House for Women: See remarks above.

Needham Cemetery: Mike: I sent an email to city hall but have not received a response letting them know that people are complaining that cemeteries are falling apart. They should consider adding them to the Pride in Peabody cleanup or get sponsors to maintain them. In going through the files upstairs, we came across a program taking care of cemeteries, including getting sponsors.

Building Archive Project:

Motion made by Gerry Bellew to send a letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee for the Building Department's application "Building Archive Project" and was seconded by Lola Busta. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Remarks by Commission Members:

Dianne: Nothing to add.

Jerry: Vera Burke's husband recently passed away & I would like to have everyone sign a condolence card to send her.

Lola: St. Michael's is hosting a veteran's breakfast on Sunday, 12/8, 10:00.

Dave:

Debby: I toured the House of 7 Gables with a private group through the Peabody Essex Museum. The Curator told us that the board & officers toured the Proctor House.

Frank: Nothing to add.

Andy: Nothing to add.

Cheryl: Nothing to add.

Vinnie: Absent.

Mike: Vinny asked to step down. If any members know anyone, nominate them.

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 6:40 p.m.: Dave Cronin/Debby Eskenazi