

Peabody Historical Commission

Minutes of March 21, 2019 Commission Meeting

The regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held at the George Peabody House on March 21, 2019. Present were Commissioners: Gerald Bellew, Caroline Busta, David Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Francis Hardy, Andrew Metropolis, Cheryl Millard, and Vincent Raponi. Absent were Michael Bonfanti.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Acting Chairman Cheryl Millard.

Motion made by Andrew Metropolis to approve the regular Committee minutes of February 21, 2019 as presented and was seconded by David Cronin. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Committee Reports

Educational Exchange Program: Frank spoke to Jan Anderson. He is going to meet with her and Andy to talk about their trips then they'll present the program to the Mayor. They need a written guide. In the past he has solicited donations to keep costs down, the Peabody Trust in London has put them up in hotels, paying for room & board, transportation and different events. PVMHS reciprocated by putting British kids up in our homes and taking them places.

Children's Museum: Debby & Cheryl met with Melissa Robinson. The museum is opening Sunday, March 31st with a pre-opening for donors Friday. The house basement is damp so there isn't anything there. Everything in the museum basement is on pallets but most of the exhibits were brought upstairs and a few paintings were moved to the Library. The same movers who work with the Peabody Essex Museum did this move. A bank made a donation so clients of Citizens Inn and students from the Welch as well as EBT holders can attend for free. There will be a special day for ARC and Citizens Inn clients. Access is restricted. They are still looking for volunteers. The children's museum will close at the end of June and the Geo. Peabody House and Leatherworkers' Museum will reopen mid-July.

Old Business

Historic House Markers: Discussed the mock sign for \$28. They can charge \$50 and keep them uniform throughout the city.

Request for marker – 2 Lowell Street Court: A real estate agency rents out the apartments and would like a sign. There was a discussion about the age and history of the house and if it warrants a sign since the house has been added to over the years. They can do what they want to the house if it is not located in the historic district. Cheryl suggested calling the agent back to let her know the PHC is working on getting a sign.

Tercentenary Sign – Downing Farm: No updates from Community Development. This sign was originally in front of the courthouse. The Mayor will have the final say as to where it is placed once it has been restored.

Website Creation for PHC: PHC is the only local HC without its own website. We just need something simple including the application for plaques. Debby & Cheryl are going to meet with the Mayor, ask how to get it up on the city's website and get an idea of what content to include. They will update the Commission in April.

New Business

Remarks by Commission Members: Andy mentioned Mike Schulze's illness and the movement to get something named in his honor. Some suggestions include the path to Brooksby Farm, the dog park or a political collecting room.

Motion made by Andrew Metropolis to send a letter to the Mayor supporting the naming of something after Michael Schulze. Seconded by Cheryl Millard. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Lola commented that she is sad to hear about Mike Schulze. She has a few polish events coming up. She is proud of the job the HC is doing.

Frank stated the Mayor asked him and Andy about the civics curriculum from way back. He called Methuen HS and will share his findings with the Mayor and Eric Buckley.

Vinnie added that Mass changed the curriculum and now all eight graders will have civics going forward.

Eagle Scout request to clean up Glen Dr. Cemetery: Eagle Scouts Anthony Bonfanti and Joseph McCoy distributed their project handbooks. They want to repair the Russell-Upton Cemetery on Glen Drive: cutting back brush and small trees (must be under 3" in diameter), add an entranceway with a small fence and a sign with a brief history of the cemetery and a walking path. The commission asked that they record anything visible on the stones without disturbing the stones. There was a brief discussion about fencing and signage. Dave suggested they add their names and date to the sign. Andy suggested they go to Community Preservation for funding for the fence and sign. Andy is going to let the family know it's going to be cleaned up. Cheryl offered to go with them and take pictures.

Motion to made by Andy Metropolis to send a letter of support to Eagle Scouts Anthony Bonfanti and Joseph McCoy in their efforts to beautify and clean up the Russell-Upton Cemetery on Glen Drive as per letters outlining their plans. Plans shall include before and after pictures, list of stones still standing and a record of anything written on visible stones. Seconded by Dave Cronin. A roll call was taken.

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

Main St. Historic District Letter from Mass. Historical Comm: Tabled until March. No one knows why we received this letter.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for April 11, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Peabody Institute Library Trustees Room, 82 Main Street.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.: Dave Cronin/Andy Metropolis.