

# Peabody Historical Commission

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## Minutes of May 16, 2019 Commission Meeting

The regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held at the Peabody Institute Library Trustees Room on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners: Gerald Bellew, Michael Bonfanti, Carolina Busta, David Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Andrew Metropolis, Cheryl Millard, and Vincent Raponi. Also in attendance was Bill Power.

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

Motion made by David Cronin to approve the regular Committee minutes of April 11, 2019 as presented and was seconded by Deborah Eskenazi. A roll call vote was taken.

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

### Committee Reports

Mike introduced Bill Power – he's been a part of the city and is a wealth of knowledge.

Educational Exchange Program: Frank and Andy met with the Mayor who asked them to put together information to improve the school's civics class so Frank contacted the head of social studies at Methuen HS and got the information. They're still waiting to meet with the Mayor to give him their information. Frank & Andy have written step-by-step procedures so anyone can run the program. They are waiting to meet with the Mayor to discuss this with him too. There was a brief discussion about how the program has been run.

Children's Museum: As of April 12, 2019, 3,500 children have visited including special needs children. It has received excellent reviews and is the only one of its kind on the North Shore.

### Old Business

Historic House Markers: There was a discussion about markers. Dianne is going to get a template from All Kinds of Signs. In order to get a sign, homes must meet certain guidelines including being over 100 years old. If there has been major renovations they may not qualify. Homeowners will pay for their own sign. There was a brief discussion about asking the CPC for a grant to assist owners of historic homes with renovations to the outside.

Request for marker – 2 Lowell Street Court: Cheryl let the realtor know the program is being revamped and it may be 4-6 months before she can get a sign.

Tercentenary Sign – Downing Farm: Dan Doucette spoke to Chris Ryder. The state will take care of repairing this sign. Mike will follow up with Dan.

Website Creation for PHC: Debby & Cheryl met with the Mayor. He wants to approve what is on the site. They would like a mission statement, brochure, links to open different pages to access different information, and a FAQ page.

Commission Portrait: This will be taken by Cheryl in September.

Eagle Scout clean-up of the Russell-Upton Cemetery: Eagle Scouts are working on Glen Drive cleaning out the area. There are only one or two standing headstones. The entranceway will have crushed stone. There will be informational signs listing the names of those resting in the cemetery. No dumping signs will be posted.

Main St. Historic District Letter from Mass. Historical Comm: Per Curt, the consultant wants to add to the district. Dan Doucette wants to have a historical walking tour during the Festival.

Bowditch House: The Mayor is going to visit the site; Andy wants the Historical Society to go too. They may put up a memorial sign.

New Business

Peabody Square Clock: The clock is from 1950. The key has been found and the time changed.

Veterans' Graves Flags: Mike spoke to the Veteran's Agent, Steve. It is the veterans job to flag. Steve will do the big one's including St. Mary's on the Peabody side. There are 32 cemeteries and 97 flags. Flags were given out.

10 Chestnut Street Special Permit: Andy researched the house. No funerals were ever there. Curt asked if they filed any permits. There are also no parking spaces. PHC would like to be consulted before making any plans.

Remarks by Commission Members: Mike Bonfanti attended the open meeting law seminar along with several other members. Also went to the Patriots Day event with Andy and feels it's good to partner with the Historical Society.

Andy: Kiley Bros. picture made, they died in WWII.

Cheryl: will send out the history of City Hall.

Jerry: Five Sullivan brothers also died in WWII.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for June 20, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Peabody Institute Library Trustees Room, 82 Main Street.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned: Dave Cronin/Andy Metropolis.