

Peabody Historical Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commission of June 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Smith Barn, Felton St., Peabody. Present were Commissioners: John Andruszkiewicz, Michael Bonfanti, Jeff Budd, Carolina Busta, Dave Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Frank Hardy, Andy Metropolis and Cheryl Millard. Absent None. Also present: Julie Andy, Ruth Ann Hoffman, Dan Doucette.

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

Chairman's Remarks: 1) introduced City Purchasing Agent Dan Doucette; 2) Judy and Ruth Ann are present and still cleaning cemeteries. We have been re-discovering lost cemeteries too.

Correspondence: 1) Lisa Dooley, re: 28 Franklin St., asked about historical district. Jeff explained the intricacies to her; 2) Jeff corresponded with Rebecca Pitman re: Proctor House. They want to open the house to tours, classes, special events. He told her to put their ideas in writing and referred her to Curt Bellavance and ward 5 councilor Saslaw.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** duly made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 20, 2021 with changes. Motion passed: unanimous.

Committee Reports: 16 Crowninshield St: Cheryl and Debby walked the grounds and met the new site operations manager. The sign on the chimney is too small, they will ask that it be enlarged. The paint job is also lousy – they're going to ask that it be repainted. They're having an issue with people not picking up after their dogs. Winn is going to landscape, make it more accessible and put in a walkway. They were able to tour the mansion too. They did a good job re-doing it.

Subcommittee on Regulations & Ordinance Revision: Jeff is waiting for Al to get back to him.

Old Business: PHC Website: Mike would like clear explanations as to what the Commission does and department links.

Cemeteries - CPC Grant & Signage: 1) Dan is going to help order signs. The Historic District (Franklin/Chestnut & Washington/Aborn) signs as written are too busy. He suggests a simple sign with a pedestal sign on the sidewalk with more information, placing them at city hall and near St. Paul's Church. Dan is also going to look into cemetery signs; 2) Dick St. Pierre would like to ask the CPC for a grant to renovate some cemeteries, preferably someplace visible.

Funding for Low-Income Homeowners of Historic Properties: No discussion.

Visit to J Upton House: The homeowner, Mr. O'Donnell, wants to preserve it, his children want to sell. He has spoken to a congressman who is interested in helping preserve it. He asked that the Commission send a letter of support. There was a discussion about various ways to buy and preserve it (subdivide and sell one lot, find grants, have a caretaker live there or have the homeowners remain). It's listed on the National Historical Registry as inventory only.

2 Washington St/St. Paul's Church Updates: No update.

Memorial Day Flagging: Mike thanked everyone for helping flag veterans' graves.

New Business: Veterans Banners: Other communities hang banners with pictures of their veterans & dates of service. Each banner would cost approx. \$100, double sided, color, and need to be hung by PMLP. There are approx. 5,000 veterans in Peabody.

Wreaths Across America: The Commission will get \$5 for every wreath purchased and placed in Peabody. Dave mentioned that they wanted to do Cedar Grove but there are 3,000 veterans in there and he didn't think it was feasible.

PHC Storage & Workspace at the Sutton House: The Society has given the Commission permission store files. They just have to be moved.

Inventory of Properties on Commission's Residential & Commercial Lists, with the Goal to Update our Demo Delay & add Significant Properties to MHC Inventory: No Updates.

Demo Delay: Everything built before 1900 is on the list, over 2000 houses. The Building Dept. is cooperating with us.

St. John's Church 150th Anniversary: Frank couldn't make the last meeting and hasn't been notified of another. Andy and Mike also asked to participate.

Remarks by Commissioners:

John Andruszkiewicz: Nothing to add.

Jeff Budd: Nothing to add.

Lola Busta: Nothing to add.

Dave Cronin: Nothing to add.

Debby Eskenazi: Nothing to add.

Frank Hardy: Nothing to add.

Dianne Marchese: Nothing to add.

Andy Metropolis: John is being operated on next week.

Cheryl Millard: Nothing to add.

Ruth Ann: These meetings are enlightening.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for July 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Smith Barn.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard. Motion passed: unanimous.