

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commission of July 15, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peabody Historical Commission (PHC) was held on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Smith Barn, Felton St., Peabody. Present were Commissioners: Michael Bonfanti, Jeff Budd, Carolina Busta, Dave Cronin, Deborah Eskenazi, Andy Metropolis and Cheryl Millard. Absent John Andruszkiewicz and Frank Hardy.

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

Chairman's Remarks: 1) A Mr. Cominsky called re: 18 Chestnut St. He had wrong information but implied that we didn't want to help him; 2) Dan Terenzoni looked at 67 Margin St. The Building Commissioner is now involved as it seems they are running a boarding house with mattresses everywhere. It has been flagged for demo delay.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** duly made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 2021. Motion passed: unanimous.

Committee Reports: 16 Crowninshield St: They are making a larger sign – 4'x3', there is no dedication date, "AC Lawrence Memorial" will be painted on the chimney. There are no cameras in the area which makes it hard to place benches.

Subcommittee on Regulations & Ordinance Revision: Jeff & Andy are meeting with AI next week.

Old Business: PHC Website: No updates.

Cemeteries - CPC Grant & Signage: We would like to apply for a grant from the CPC to restore headstones at the Old South Burial Ground. This is the most visible & historically significant cemetery. Dick contacted EPOCH and got bids of \$23,000 - \$30,000. There are several CPC members on our boards who are favorable to this project, as is the Mayor. The Commission will apply with Kelly from the Society & Dianne working together. If it works, we'll apply to restore other cemeteries.

Steve Patten, Veterans' Agent, has offered to buy some signs. Signs will have a black border and say Peabody Historical Commission. There will be no sponsors listed. If anyone knows of any missing cemetery signs, let Mike know and he will tell Steve. So far missing signs are: Moulton, Flint @ Nichols Lane, Gardner, New Russell and Pope cemeteries.

Motion duly made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Jeff Budd, to support the Commission applying for a CPC grant to restore the Old South Burial Ground and to send a letter of support for the project. Motion passed: unanimous.

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

Visit to J Upton House: Mr. O'Donnell is getting up there and is all over the place. Mike told him they need specifics. He asked the Society if the curators can help get the house on the National Register and help find grants to buy it. He would like to form a small group to negotiate with Mr. O'Donnell.

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

Sutton House Sign: The sign is ready to be presented to the Board. Cheryl would like to have a small ceremony in September. She and Debby will work together to find a date and get it set up.

New Business: Historic Signage: Jeff has made a few signs while Dan Doucette is working on getting historical district signage. After research, he determined that the State uses brown signs with white lettering. Mike wants “tanner” blue signs with white lettering. The Mayor has offered to pay for four signs (two per district) and possibly pedestal signs at Brodie’s & St. Paul’s.

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.

PHC Storage & Workspace at the Sutton House: Mike & Jeff moved files to the Sutton House but the space needs to be improved. They found maps of cemeteries. We need medallions and plaques listing who is buried there.

Meeting at Fire HQ for new Windows: Members of the Society and Commission met the Fire Chief at Headquarters to talk about getting new windows. They explained that there are funds available but he needs to get bids for historical windows.

Motion duly made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to send a letter of support to the Community Preservation Committee supporting new windows at Fire Headquarters. Motion passed: unanimous.

Wreaths Across America: This is a national program. We can sponsor one cemetery and put it on our website. For every wreath, \$15, purchased, the Society will get \$5 back. The Society and veterans are on board. Steve Patten said he can get 20 people to help place them. The Society is looking into it and wants to sponsor Cedar Grove where there are 3,000 veterans buried. Mike will talk to the Mayor and Cemetery director for their support.

Motion duly made by Dave Cronin, seconded by Cheryl Millard, to send a letter of support to the Historical Society supporting Wreaths Across America. Motion passed: unanimous.

Remarks by Commissioners:

John Andruszkiewicz: Absent.

Jeff Budd: Nothing to add.

Lola Busta: Enjoyed the tour of HQ.

Dave Cronin: Nothing to add.

Debby Eskenazi: Nothing to add.

Frank Hardy: Absent.

Dianne Marchese: Nothing to add.

Andy Metropolis: Nothing to add.

Cheryl Millard: Nothing to add.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date is scheduled for September 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Smith Barn.

Adjournment: **Motion** to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. by Dave Cronin, seconded by Lola Busta. Motion passed: unanimous.