



**LEGISLATION AND PRESERVATION TOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201
Held virtually via Zoom

MARCH 11, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lydia Lowe, Margaret Dyson, Lynn Smiledge

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Michael Creasey, Kathy Kottaridis, Kenzie Bok, Rebecca Tomasovic, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Jean Luc Pierite, Senator Mike Rush, Amanda Zettel, Chelsea Blanchard

STAFF PRESENT: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager

PUBLIC/PRESS PRESENT: Alison Pultinas

A full recording of the meeting is available on boston.gov/commemoration-commission

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes were approved.

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

- a. Genesis Pimentel explained that the reason for this discussion is to have more concrete recommendations written out for the Mayor's Office regarding 250th projects.
- b. The commissioners discussed the following:
 - i. The citywide historic resource survey is something this group has been tasked with recommending. They stated there is a need for funding for adequate staff, funding for new historic districts, and a need to broaden criteria for what a historic resource is. They added there will need to be contracts for consultants, and a contract/consulting manager. There will need to be a GIS manager. There will need to be adequate funding and staffing for this project.



- ii. There is a need for funding best practices for social and cultural history. They added that there are good models for the built environment but less clear models for cultural and social history. They added this work can be done with Arts & Culture and MAPC.
- iii. They suggested the historic resource survey be done in phases and not necessarily broken down year-by-year. They emphasized a need to prioritize surveying in neighborhoods that have not been surveyed in some time. They added that spaces used by many such as open spaces and businesses are a good starting point for social history.
- iv. They stated that Article 85 and the survey should have two separate memorandums with recommendations that go out to the City. They offered that this subcommittee can act in a sounding board capacity and in a vetting capacity for the internal teams that will undertake these projects.
- v. They argued that having a marker program will enhance how we understand social history through a physical sense.
- vi. They also discussed how to discuss developing tools that need to be developed to assess a place that has changed over time, physically and culturally.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Alison Pultinas discussed how prioritization during historic surveys will need to be carefully considered. She added that there is an opportunity to partner with historic organizations for social history surveying.

V. ADJOURNMENT - 2:44 PM

- a. The meeting ended.