



**LEGISLATION AND PRESERVATION TOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

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

OCTOBER 14, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lydia Lowe, Amanda Zettel, Kathy Kottaridis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kenzie Bok, Margaret Dyson, Julian Viviescas for Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, Senator Mike Rush, Jean Luc Pierite

STAFF PRESENT: Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Chelsea Blanchard, Staff Architect

PUBLIC PRESENT: Matthew Dickey, Molly Donahue, Frank O'Brien

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 held off.

III. SIX MONTH REPORT

- a. The group reviewed the updated 6 month report and the interim catalogue of recommendations.

IV. UPDATES ON ARTICLE 85 & 2026 PLANNING

- a. Genesis Pimentel discussed how she reached out to members of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion to find out more about their existing programs, how they track data, and what their perspectives on economic development and preservation are. They recommended collaboration with Main Streets to survey what's culturally important and that could cover a broad swath of properties and human significance along a survey about what's been lost. They did state that there is no way to track the businesses that have been long except for checking the City Clerk's business directory year-by-year.



- i. Commissioner Kathy Kottaidis asked if the City staff have a sense of the survey information and inventory forms that the Office of Historic Preservation has in order to better understand if OEOI knows what information could be available to them as they make decisions around land use, rehabilitation, or advocacy.
 - ii. Matthew Dickey discussed how Upham's Corner Main Streets created a National Register Historic District that was spearheaded by Main Streets, and he asked whether this process could be replicated in other neighborhoods.
 - iii. Commissioner Kottaridis discussed how beneficial this move was and would like to figure out how to show other neighborhoods that this move is not detrimental to planning.
 - iv. Chair Lydia Lowe stated that getting a mini-conference together where people can share lessons from projects that were undertaken by community groups might be a good way for partnership to be developed.
 - v. Commissioner Amanda Zettel noted that this would need a PR component, so that the messaging to the broader community is precise.
- b. Chair Lydia Lowe asked about community-led trails.
 - i. Genesis Pimentel discussed the Events, Exhibits, and Trails advisory committee beginning talks about developing a field guide for community-based trails, and Commissioner Kathy Kottaridis explained that the regulatory component is being worked through.
 - ii. Chelsea Blanchard discussed a project that is being developed by another department and they had been to a lot of other departments before they realized that they could get their needs met at the Boston Landmarks Commission.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Frank O'Brien asked about Article 85 and the Climate Action Plan that was released as it mentioned Adaptive Reuse, and he wanted to know more about how Historic Preservation was thinking about where demolition review occurs in the City's process and how it was tracking it.
 - i. Molly Donahue let O'Brien know that the Boston Preservation Alliance is putting together a focus group to discuss the Climate Action Plan and the Historic Preservation component.
- b. O'Brien added that Hyde Park Historical Society is compiling comments from commissions, departments, and organizations about the Climate Action Plan.



VI. ADJOURNMENT - 2:50 PM

- a. The meeting ended.

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