

Minutes of the Memorial Hall Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2021

NOTE: Chair Sexton unable to remote in, Trustee Margolis is Presiding Chair for this meeting.

REMOTE MEETING was called to order by Presiding Chair Mike Margolis at 6:03 pm

Board Members in attendance via roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees Eric DiNoto, Lou Izzi, Jason Webb.

Invited guests: Karen Burke, Melrose Veterans Service Officer and Ward Hamilton, Chair Melrose Historical Commission

Remote Meeting Information: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building Board of Trustees will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will post a comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Melrose website.

Motion to Open Public Participation

Mover: Trustee Izzi Seconded: Trustee DiNoto

Roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees DiNoto, Izzi and Webb

All voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Motion carried

No one from public requested to speak.

Motion to Close Public Participation

Mover: Trustee Izzi Seconded: Trustee DiNoto

Roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees DiNoto, Izzi and Webb

All voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Motion carried

SHRAB Grant:

Trustee Izzi introduced Ward Hamilton, Chair of the Melrose Historical Commission (MHC). He noted Kathy contacted him letting him know that Karen Burke and the MHC wanted to look at the artifacts at Memorial Hall. There is a grant available to restore Veterans monuments and artifacts they wanted to apply for and Kathy felt this would tie in with the Trustees mission of cataloging, appraising, restoring and preserving the artifacts in storage at Memorial Hall. Kathy gave a tour to Trustee Izzi, the members of the MHC and Karen Burke of the artifacts stored.

Ward: Karen Burke and MHC became aware of the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board, (SHRAB), Preservation Grant for Veterans Collections, Monuments and Memorials so they met with Karen so they could partner on the grant application to honoring Melrose black Civil War Veterans. They did not know what that would entail until after research was done. In doing some quick research, they discovered Wesley Furlong and Moses Mitchell, black Civil War veterans, moved to Melrose after the war ended and became members of the Melrose Grand Army of the Republic which met in the GAR Room of Memorial Hall. During a meeting with Karen, MHC and Lisa Lloyd, chair of the ongoing Melrose Veteran Memorial Middle School Veterans Memory Project. Lisa mentioned the items at Memorial Hall and a register in the basement of City Hall. Karen reached out to Kathy and due to the April 7th grant deadline, the SSMB Chair Mary Sexton called this meeting to review grant application with Trustees.

Ward presented a draft proposal which includes 3 phases and stated the application would be submitted under the name of the SSMB Board of Trustees, City of Melrose:

Phase I Archive: Bring in a professional consultant to catalog the collection at Memorial Hall

Phase II Preserve: Design and implementing a plan to preserve and display the collection

Phase III Memorialize: Public recognition of the service of black Civil War Soldiers

Motion: Commit up to \$20,000 for Melrose Restoration Fund to be used as matching funds to be received from the State Historical Records Advisory Board pursuant to grant application to be submitted provided by the Board of Trustees has final approval of said application and provided all activities of said application and approval all activities as contemplated by the Grant application be subject to control and approval of Board of Trustees.

Mover: Trustee DiNoto Seconded: Presiding Chair Margolis

Roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees DiNoto, Izzi and Webb.

All voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Motion carried

Motion to Approve minutes from March 3, 2021 meeting

Mover: Trustee Izzi Seconded: Presiding Chair Margolis

Roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees DiNoto, Izzi and Webb.

All voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Motion carried

Motion to Adjourn at 7:09 pm

Mover: Trustee DiNoto Seconded: Trustee Webb

Roll call vote: Presiding Chair Margolis, Trustees DiNoto, Izzi and Webb.

All voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Motion carried

Next Monthly Trustees meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pigott-Brodeur, Memorial Hall Executive Director

Distribution: Chair Mary Sexton, Trustees Eric DiNoto, Lou Izzi, Mike Margolis and Jason Webb