



**LEGISLATION AND PRESERVATION TOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

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

**JUNE 24, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:** Kenzie Bok, Amanda Zettel, Jean-Luc Pierite, Senator Mike Rush, Chelsea Blanchard

**Commissioners Absent:** Michael Creasey, Alison Frazee, Maureen Garceau, Arthur Jemison, Brian Swett, Lynn Smiledge

**Staff Present:** Genesis Pimentel, Commemoration Commission Manager; Mimi Turchinetz, Deputy Director for Labor Policy; Kevin Crossley, Planning; Nupoor Monani, Planning

Public: Alison Pultinas, Frank O'Brien

Press: Alison Pultinas

A full recording of the meeting is available on [boston.gov/commemoration-commission](https://boston.gov/commemoration-commission)

---

**SESSION BEGINS - 1:00 PM**

**I. WELCOME**

- a. Commemoration Commission Manager Genesis Pimentel welcomed attendees.

**II. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Meeting minutes were approved by present members.

**III. UPDATES**

- a. Genesis Pimentel let attendees know that a 6 month report would be written by the end of July, and that their input would be necessary in the coming meetings. She reviewed the question Chair Alison Frazee shared ahead of the meeting, as Chair Frazee was unable to attend. She shared information from the 4/9/24 meeting including that she connected with Kevin Crossley of the BPDA, and he shared a number of materials about Article 80.
- b. Commissioner Kenzie Bok gave an introduction about the Commemoration Commission and the goals of the commission and the LPT subcommittee to first-time attendees. She discussed the thread by which all subcommittees are connected, and she explained how the BLC and preservation policies of Boston



were groundbreaking in 1975 but are now significantly behind other cities. Bok explained how because Article 80 is being modernized, the subcommittee saw an opportunity to provide preservation input into the current process, especially since Article 80 is part of every big project, so having preservation policies inserted there would be a win.

- c. Commissioner Sen. Mike Rush agreed that preservation policies are lacking and offered support. He also mentioned that compiling a book or list of all historic properties lost would show significant loss and expose flaws in our system.
- d. **Frank O'Brien from Hyde Park Historical Society stated that Article 80 in its existing form could still do a lot for preservation, but that it isn't being effectively utilized and the shift to prioritize preservation must be institutional.**
- e. Chair Lydia Lowe discussed how cultural districts and historic districts still don't do exactly what Chinatown needs. However, Chinatown has been working on a cultural planning process and figuring out a potential for a hybrid cultural-historic district.
- f. Commissioner Bok discussed how it's important to preserve cultural elements while discussing how amorphous and difficult those contributing elements might be to capture.

#### IV. ARTICLE 80 DISCUSSION

- a. Nupoor Monani and Kevin Crossley shared a presentation on Article 80 Modernization.

#### V. Q & A

- a. Commissioner Chelsea Blanchard asked if Article 80 is the appropriate phase to begin talking about historical significance and what the procedure for that would be.
  - i. Nupoor Monani replied that the revised process would want to elevate issues of potential demolition of historic assets as early as possible. The procedure is being workshopped.
- b. Commissioner Amanda Zettel asked how the new process would layer in with the current process and what the changes are from IAGs to CATs.
  - i. Monani replied that the new process would take something like PNF and expand it by breaking each part of the process down piece by piece.
  - ii. Commissioner Zettel expressed concern about the scale of that process.
  - iii. Monani expressed that the coming slide would explain how they would try to expand, keep key elements, and not increase the amount of work put into the process.



- c. Chair Lowe asked about the community input process as residents are often not well represented on IAGs.
  - i. Monani responded that for CATs, the intent is for residents to represent a majority of the new groups. They have not yet figured out who will be responsible for the process of selection.
  - ii. Commissioner Blanchard flagged that historic district commissioners are chosen by the Mayor's Office, and there have been many open seats due to the lack of speed and urgency from the Mayor's Office to fill those roles. She advised that the ability to select who sits in these groups should be somewhat controlled by Planning.
  - iii. Monani responded that they have also seen this issue as elected officials struggle with the volume of projects and therefore Planning would like to consolidate the amount of people who need to find or approve nominees.
  - iv. Commission Blanchard also mentioned that the commissions have certain nominating bodies that make recommendations, but since the Mayor's Office has the final say, the decisions are confusing as reasoning is obfuscated.
- d. Monani responded to a comment from Zettel about whether these groups have veto powers or census requirements by saying that they are still advisory, so they'd provide feedback across many projects but they would not necessarily have those powers. **She also responded to a comment from Alison Pultinas saying that City and organizational seats may be something that they could consider.**
- e. Chair Lowe asked if mitigation also considered increased traffic and pollution to a neighborhood.
  - i. Crossley responded that what Lowe raised is exactly the type of framework they want to codify where there's a certain availability of open space or a standard of air quality in a neighborhood that must be maintained.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. [Public Comment A](#)
- b. [Public Comment B](#)

## VII. ADJOURNMENT - 3:00 PM

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.