



**Board Attendance**

<b>P = present, A = absent, NA = notified/excused absence</b>					
Leigh Bivings	<b>P</b>	Betsy Hall	<b>P</b>	David Mundel	<b>P</b>
Matt Carroll	<b>A</b>	Michael Hall	<b>P</b>	Susan Passoni	<b>P</b>
Glenn Copley	<b>A</b>	Kyle Hancock	<b>NA</b>	Peter Pogorski	<b>P</b>
Paul Duffy	<b>P</b>	John Herbert	<b>P</b>	Gary Patronek	<b>NA</b>
Kathy Emrich	<b>P</b>	Elsa Hill	<b>NA</b>	Sandra Silver	<b>P</b>
Jay Fogarty	<b>P</b>	Karl Hinsch	<b>P</b>	Carol Trust	<b>P</b>
Beth Freeland	<b>P</b>	Barbara Hoffman	<b>P</b>	Stephen Vowler	<b>P</b>
Jennifer Girvin	<b>NA</b>	Gordon Holmes	<b>P</b>	Elizabeth Xanthopoulos	<b>P</b>
Tony Gordon	<b>P</b>	Abby Johnson	<b>P</b>		
Bill Gregor	<b>P</b>	Maureen Lamb	<b>NA</b>		

**Guests:** Stephen Lozen, Benjamin Franklin Institute; Alla Yakovlev, Benjamin Franklin Institute; Stacey Koeppel, South End Business Alliance; Tabitha Bennett, South End Liaison to the Mayor’s Office; Bruce Petri

***Welcome***

Abby Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

***General Announcements and Topics of Discussion***

**1. Benjamin Franklin Institute Presentation**

Stephen Lozen and Alla Yakovlev gave an overall description of the Institute. At present there are 534 students. The majority are from the Boston area, however there is a growing number of students from overseas. Many of the students continue their education at 4-year colleges such as Wentworth Institute of Technology. Alla invited the Board to visit the Institute to see the work going on there.

**2. South End Business Alliance Presentation**

Stacey Koeppel from SEBA gave an overview of the organization. Its mission is to support, strengthen and unify South End businesses, artists and non-profit organizations. She directed the Board to its website: [www.southendbusiness.com](http://www.southendbusiness.com). Paul Duffy commented that it is in all our interests to support local businesses.

**3. Executive Committee Update**

Susan Passoni, President, announced that Elsa Hill has resigned from the Board. She will be spending a great deal of her time out of the area. She also announced that Mike Nairne has officially resigned from the Groundwater Trust. We need to recommend a new member, as it is important that we have a voice on this committee. Susan asked that suggestions for a replacement should be emailed to her.

Michael Flaherty, Boston City Councilor At-Large, will attend the Board Meeting on February 24.

The family of Joe Park has requested that the Board send a donation to MGH Cancer Research Foundation in lieu of flowers.

The minutes from the prior Board meeting were discussed and accepted.

Sandra Silver, Treasurer, reported that the bill for the cleaning of Tremont Street has been paid.

#### 4. **Committee Updates**

##### **-Development**

John Herbert reported that there was supposed to be an update on the Columbus Center on November 15, but as of now this has not happened.

##### **-Licensing**

David Mundel reported that the construction of Stephi's Restaurant on Tremont Street is proceeding. It is hoped that the construction will be completed by late winter/early spring. The new Dunkin' Donuts in the Back Bay station was granted a license.

##### **-Membership**

Beth Freeland reported that a batch of new resident welcome letters is to be sent out this month.

##### **-Events**

Bill Gregor reported that the Holiday Party organized by the Wine Group was a big success and that photos will be posted on the Ellis website. A new member was recruited as a result of attending the party.

The Posh Party on December 11 was also a success and was well attended.

Future Wine Group events include a repeat of the Jazz/Wine evening at the Berklee College of Music, probably in the spring and the Progressive Dinner on February 9. The committee working on the Progressive Dinner has arranged for the Beehive to be the meeting place for the diners and is working on getting other restaurants signed up. More details will be in the next Ellis Newsletter and on the Ellis Website.

##### **-Nominating**

Elizabeth Xanthopoulos, reported that the Committee has been formed. Its members are: Elizabeth Xanthopoulos, Chair, Abby Johnson, Executive Committee Representative, Jovita Fontanez, Marcia Soden, Claire Cochran and Stephen Vowler. A motion to approve this Committee was passed.

#### 5. **Other Business**

Kathy Emrich, reported that that there was a full PruPAC meeting in November to vote on whether to support the proposed developments at 888 Boylston Street and on Exeter Street. Neighborhood association representatives voted against the proposal and business representatives voted for it. The result of the vote was to support the proposal.

Kathy also reported that the MBTA Silver Line Project has both financial and construction problems. She will report back in detail after the January meeting.

#### ***Conclusion and adjournment***

The next meeting will be on January 27, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Hoffman

