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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESERVATION MASSACHUSETTS APPOINTS ERIN KELLY AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLYMOUTH, MA, December 8, 2021 — Preservation Massachusetts announced today that Erin Kelly has been appointed as its next Executive Director. James Igoe, who has served as Executive Director since 2001, will remain with the organization as Policy and Legislative Consultant. These leadership appointments are effective January 1, 2022, and follow the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Erin’s caliber and experience succeed Jim as the new leader of Preservation Massachusetts,” said John Gahan, Chair of Preservation Massachusetts’ Board of Directors. “Earlier this year, Jim expressed to the Board his desire to reduce his role starting in 2022. After careful deliberation, the Board unanimously selected Erin as his successor. We are fully confident in her ability to lead Preservation Massachusetts. Jim will continue to work with us as Policy and Legislative Consultant, using his extensive knowledge and experience to the benefit of the entire organization.”

“Erin is an exceptional leader who is well-respected within the historic preservation community in Massachusetts, the entire Northeast region, and Washington, DC, where so much of our policy and advocacy work takes place. If you asked Jim, he would tell you that he and Erin have shared leadership responsibilities for over a decade and that, for years, Erin has led Preservation Massachusetts’ annual fundraising and strategic planning. As an anchor of the team for 18 years, she brings an unmatched understanding of our operations and programs. Her leadership is essential to maintaining key relationships with constituents, funders, and stakeholders in the region,” Gahan concluded.

Kelly said, “I am honored and excited to lead the next chapter of Preservation Massachusetts. Having worked in close partnership with Jim for 18 years, I have learned from the very best. Our priorities of strong legislation, advocacy, and education are essential to the future of our Commonwealth. Preserving historic resources is more important than ever; it matters in every community across Massachusetts and the entire country.”

Kelly was promoted to Associate Director in 2017, and even before then, she was overseeing key elements of the administration, development, fundraising, programming, policy, and strategic growth of Preservation Massachusetts. Her work has expanded the organization’s impact, credibility, and strength at the state and national levels. Since joining the organization in 2004, she has worked on many critical programs, such as the Preservation Circuit Riders; created new educational resources, such as Preservation Conversations and the online Action Center; and spearheaded the 1772 Foundation’s matching grant program for Massachusetts. Her collaborative experience spans regional New England partnerships to national board service. Kelly graduated *magna cum laude* from Roger Williams University with a BS in historic preservation and earned a certificate in preservation leadership training from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, Gahan said, “We are incredibly grateful for Jim’s dedication and service to Preservation Massachusetts. We are also thrilled to welcome Erin Kelly as the right leader to move the organization into the future.”

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Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' historic and cultural heritage. The organization is supported entirely by grants, fundraising events, and membership support. It works in partnership with national, state, and local organizations and individuals across the Commonwealth to advance an understanding, appreciation of, and utilization of our historic built and natural landscapes.

For additional information, please visit: www.preservationmass.org.