

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 6, 2015 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Paul Foley, Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Absent: Alec J. Poitzsch, Robert Shannon

Guest: Margaret Zoladkowski

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Welcome

- Paul Foley was thanked for his six years of service to the Historical Commission. Margaret Zoladkowski was welcomed and is considering joining the Commission.

2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of April 6 were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported no changes to our accounts: \$189.41 in the operating account and \$1,204 in the donation account.

4. New Business

- a) Heritage Award ~ only one nomination was received; an email from Bee & Larry Russo suggesting Michael Collins of Collins Development, Inc. for the adaptive reuse of the 1939 North School as condominiums. The members agreed and Award will be presented on May 26 at the Selectmen's meeting.
- b) Next Meeting ~ rescheduled to Monday May 11 at 7:00 PM in the Public Library.
- c) Warrant Article #16 ~ on May 4, Town Meeting will decide if the School Committee can enter into a ten year lease for Old Central School at 25 William Street with SEEM Collaborative. Marcia proposed an amendment: "The tenant is not permitted to alter, reconstruct or change the appearance of the building's exterior or make changes in the material or workmanship on the building's exterior without approval from the Historical Commission." Steve Rotondi recommended that Marcia discuss this with the School Committee before Town Meeting convenes.
- d) Other ~ Both Steve and Marcia were contacted by Stephen Svolis, Project Manager for KBA Architects in Charlestown. He is conducting an audit of Old Central School at 25 William Street for the SEEM Collaborative and inquired about the building being listed on the MACRIS database (it is not) or located in a Local Historic District (it is not).

5. Old Business

- a) Historic Preservation Planning Forum ~ Marcia distributed the agenda from this program sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Of note was the handout showing Stoneham's placement among 31 cities and towns in National Register properties (third) and MACRIS Massachusetts Cultural Resources Information System (twenty-third). Thus 24% of our inventory is listed on the Register (Wakefield 20%, Reading 19% & Winchester 6%). Some of the speakers' presentations are available at <http://www.mapc.org/nspc/nspc-agendas-notes>
- b) Website ~ nothing to report
- c) House Marker Program ~ Paul Foley reported that Mr. Angelosanto, owner of 24 West Street, requested and received information about his house built date from the Historical Society. Paul will speak with the owner about applying to the Commission for a marker.
- d) Burial Ground ~ Maureen Buckley has ordered new flags for the Old Burying Ground as part of her duties on the Memorial Day Parade Committee. Winter damage has not been assessed.

- e) Civil War Grant ~ Margaret Zoldakowski has experience with Photoshop and will evaluate the file that was used to create the Tidd gateposts historical marker. She will also look at the available photos of Col. Gould. Marcia will send a file with Col. Gould's information.
 - f) Recording History ~ Marcia met Andrew Chesterton, Executive Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Chesterton, this afternoon at his office in Unicorn Park, Woburn. He will consider how he would like Chesterton documented for the proposed memory wall at Stoneham Crossing apartment complex being built on Fallon Road.
 - g) Historic District – Chestnut Street ~ The Assessor's office can provide mailing labels for residents in the Nobility Hill National Historic District. Marcia will follow up with Brenda Flynn
 - h) Dow Block ~ Marcia reported that the Building Inspector noted that the cable tray on the north side of the building is temporary and will be removed. No progress on the fixture with what look like two bulbs bracketed to one of the faux chimneys on the southwest side of the building.
 - i) Town Center Vision & Action Plan ~ Marcia distributed a March 2nd document titled "Recommendations Over Five Years". It includes 40+ projects that evolved from the Action Plan. Our Historic Walking tour appears in Year Two. We need to consider planning other projects related to Stoneham history.
 - j) Expiring Terms ~ the Board of Selectmen has applications from Marcia Wengen and Margaret Zoladkowski for the Commission. Appointments are due to be made April 14th.
6. Other Old Business
- a) 489 Main Street ~ the ca. 1880 Leonard P. Benton House modifications were not well received by the Planning Board on Feb 17th. Marcia met with the developer, Michael O'Sullivan, on March 16. She agreed to write a letter (March 24) to the Planning Board in support of the adaptive re-use of this building for six apartments. On April 1, members of the Planning Board toured the site at 489 Main Street. When they returned, they agreed the building was worth saving, issued a special permit for the six apartments but requested a change to the inappropriate dormer on the third floor. Marcia will be meeting with the architect and developer before the next Planning Board meeting on April 29.
 - b) Weiss Farm ~ No one has seen a decision from the Housing Appeals Committee that was due Feb 9 regarding the argument that Stoneham has met its affordable housing goal low to moderate income housing on 1.5% or more of its land zoned for residential, commercial and industrial use.
 - c) Tidd Gateposts ~ Jim Cotter, relative of Mr. Tidd, has made no contact regarding a ceremony to 'unveil' the historic marker.

The meeting ended at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary