

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 1, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Paul Foley, Joanne DiMambro, Alec J. Poitzsch, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Absent: Robert Shannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of November 3 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

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

3. New Business

- a) SEEM Collaborative issued a Request for Proposal for On-Call Architectural Design Services for several miscellaneous capital improvement projects from 2/2015 to 1/2018 with one option to renew until 1/2020. Marcia spoke with Greg Zammuto, Director of Finance & Operations at SEEM, and he has no plans to modify the exterior of Old Central School (1901) on William Street. SEEM is in year one of a three year renewal option and Greg noted that the building meets their needs. He would be interested in continued occupancy.
- b) Town Center Vision & Action Plan: the first draft of the plan was sent to members on 11/21 for review and comments. The HC portion reads: **Promote Stoneham's historic and cultural assets to draw more visitors (and residents) to the area.** One of the bullet points is to update the Historical Walking Tour brochure. Our suggestions included creating a mobile app, a Facebook page, and adding more visible signs than the bronze markers imbedded in the sidewalks.

4. Old Business

- a) Website ~ Erin Sinclair is willing to load videos of the minutemen reenactment that took place on Oct 25 in the OBG.
- b) House Marker Program ~ four markers are still at Gamit Signs (carved but not painted); the list & slideshow will need to be updated on the web site. Joan expects two marker applications after the holidays, one from a Summer St. resident whose grandfather did some research.
- c) Burial Ground ~ Marcia reported no progress on finding a stone conservator with the \$9,500 allocation in 2013. Steve reminded us about documenting Indian and slave burials. Joan noted that blacks were church members but she has not finished her research.
- d) Civil War Grant ~ content of Col. Gould marker was presented; members agreed it was too detailed and no one would read it. Marcia will send a word document for members to edit; Joan may know a graphic designer who can help with the sign creation. Marcia is agreeable to placing the sign at Col. Gould's gravesite rather than near the Civil War monument.
- e) Recording History ~ progress continues on a memory wall at the site of Marble Ridge Dairy/Fallon Farm; Neal Dike has a copy of a hand written memorandum dating to 1864 and a biography of Col. Lyman Dike mentioning his uses of the land.
- f) Local Historic District – Chestnut Street ~ Marcia met with resident Brenda Flynn and discussed her interest in a sign celebrating the Nobility Hill National Historic District. A possible location is the west side of Chestnut St. just north of Cedar Ave on Town property. Steve noted there is a National Historic District sign in Buckley Park. Need to work out design, cost, and investigate a possible sign permit.
- g) Sirius XM Radio ~ on December 18 agenda of Zoning Board of Appeals.

- h) Speaker for HS/HC Joint Meeting ~ Joan has worked with Bee Russo, HS President for presentation by Alison Simcox and Douglas Heath regarding their new 'Images of America' book on the Middlesex Fells and Spot Pond. May 14 will be the joint meeting.
 - i) Demolition Delay ~ no response from Jim Sullivan regarding Selectmen's position on Demo Delay. A planner has been hired and she currently works in Woburn which has a demo delay by-law.
5. Other Old Business
- a) The marker for the bench from the Longfellow Bridge will be installed when the weather warms up in the spring.
 - b) The next Weiss Farm meeting is with the Housing Appeals Committee on Dec 11 at 10 am in Boston.
 - c) Open Meeting Law/Conflict of Interest ~ Marcia will send the link to Paul Foley for the on-line conflict of interest tutorial.
6. Open Forum
- a) Steve Rotondi noted that the Fire Station celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016. A fireman's muster was held at Recreation Park for the Town's 250th anniversary and might be worth repeating in 2016.
 - b) Steve Rotondi opined that the first apartments in Stoneham might be 50 years old and deserve a marker.

The meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary