

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

January 5, 2015 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Paul Foley, Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi, Robert Shannon, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Absent: Alec J. Poitzsch, Joan Quigley

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of December 1 were approved with one change to item 6b.: remove 'deserve a marker' and replace with 'may be eligible for a marker'.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

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

### 3. New Business

- a) Annual Report is due February 6. Marcia will submit a draft to all for review at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- b) Email from Trustee Ben Jacques at First Congregational Church arrived today regarding their fund drive to replace and repair the leaky roof of the 1840 sanctuary building. He is seeking our help in promoting the project and perhaps co-sponsoring a fundraiser. Steve reminded us that the Commission does not engage in fundraising. The sagging ridge line recalls the late 1800's story of the members dissecting the building, moving that section east and inserting a new portion that added approximately 40 pews. The Commission will respectfully ask Trustee Jacques to document the roof before it is replaced.

### 4. Old Business

- a) Website ~ The three new house markers were added to the slideshow and the list: Stoneham Theatre, East School and 21 Cottage Street.
- b) House Marker Program ~ four markers were delivered to their owners by Margaret before year end. She will email Debra Rafson at the Theatre to offer assistance.
- c) Burial Ground ~ nothing to report.
- d) Civil War Grant ~ Steve will compile his suggested changes to Col. Gould's marker along with those from Margaret and Joan (via email).
- e) Recording History ~ Neal Dike gave Marcia a copy of Col. Lyman Dike's 1864 memorandum regarding fencing of Barehill Meadows, later Marble Ridge Dairy. It could become part of the memory wall in the Stoneham Crossing complex. Marcia will be visiting the Chesterton building before demolition in search of artifacts.
- f) Historic District – Chestnut Street ~ Marcia submitted a sample of historic district pole signs. Members discussed the possibility of sending a letter to all abutters regarding the creation of a historic district sign.
- g) Joint Meeting ~ our joint meeting with the Historical Society is scheduled for Thursday May 14.
- h) Town Center Vision & Action Plan ~ comment period ends on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- i) Town Planner ~ Erin Wortman comes to us from Woburn with both planning and grant writing skills and starts work on January 12

### 5. Other Old Business

- a) Open Meeting Law/Conflict of Interest ~ all members present submitted their receipts for the two required readings. Marcia will deliver to the Town Clerk.
- b) 489 Main Street ~ the ca. 1880 Leonard P. Benton House is scheduled to be converted from mixed-use to six apartment units. The architect has designed a

sympathetic addition to the south and west facades. It appears the tripartite bay window cannot be saved.

- c) Sirius XM Radio ~ the Zoning Board of Appeals granted the request for a satellite dish to be attached to the penthouse of 7 Stonehill Drive. At the Dec 18 meeting, the petitioner stated that the satellite radio projects fall under FCC oversight and that a Section 106 letter will follow. It is unclear if Section 106 will have any clout given new regulations, due to take effect early next year (2015). This is a result of a directive in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (aka Spectrum Act), passed by Congress and signed by the president in 2012. The act includes language intended to streamline the permitting process for wireless "collocation," or the siting of wireless equipment on existing structures.

The meeting ended at 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary