

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

March 2, 2015 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

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

Absent: Alec J. Poitzsch, Joan Quigley, Robert Shannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of January 5 were approved. There was no February meeting due to inclement weather.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

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

### 3. New Business

- a) Demolition of ca. 1940 ranch house 25 Penny Lane ~ even if Stoneham had a demolition delay by-law, this house is one of 14 ranch style homes built between 1940 and 1944 on this street and would not have been determined 'preferably preserved'. Developer was granted a waiver on the 70' frontage by the Zoning Board.
- b) Dow Block ~ Marcia reported that a cable tray has been added the north side of the building and a fixture with what look like two bulbs is bracketed to one of the faux chimneys on the southwest side of the building. It is visible from the Main & Franklin Street stop light. Building Inspector agrees that this device should be inside a faux chimney and will research.
- c) Expiring Terms ~ three members' terms end on April 30<sup>th</sup>; Paul Foley, Alec Poitsch and Marcia Wengen. Letters to re-apply can be sent now. Ads will appear in the Independent soon.
- d) Heritage Award ~ an article will be placed in the Independent and on the Town Web page for nominations; due date will be the end of March.

### 4. Old Business

- a) Our Annual Report has been submitted. It is four pages and will include a picture of our Heritage Award recipient, Emily Allard.
- b) Website ~ nothing to report
- c) House Marker Program ~ one application for 18 Chestnut St and one call to the Town Clerk from the owner of 49 Lindenwood Road asking for her marker. Marcia left message that application was never received. No trips to the Registry of Deeds until April if snow has melted. Debra Rafson at Stoneham Theatre has not made a decision about the placement of her marker.
- d) Burial Ground ~ nothing to report.
- e) Civil War Grant ~ Steve presented his revision to the content of Col Gould's marker. Marcia noted that Joan Quigley's graphic designer is away on extended vacation.
- f) Recording History ~ Marcia toured the old Chesterton Building on January 6 and found some artifacts ~ a magnetic sign, a name plate, some documents, two strips of wallpaper and a locked bulletin board on the cafeteria wall. According to the web there is a Chesterton in Woburn that may be the same company. A visit may be in order for additional information to appear on the memory wall at Stoneham Crossing complex on Fallon Road.
- g) Historic District – Chestnut Street ~ Marcia presented a draft letter that could be sent to local residents. It explains the Nobility Hill National Historic District and

invites neighbors to one of our meetings. Steve reminded us about the sign by-law. Marcia will follow-up with Brenda Flynn.

h) Town Center Vision & Action Plan ~ final version is available on the Ton's website.

5. Other Old Business

a) Commercial Improvement Program ~ the Facade Improvement plan has a new name and the owner of Curtain Time at 367 Main Street has expressed interest in a grant. He would like to remove the orange and blue panels (probably a remainder from Aubuchon Hardware), replace the recessed doorway to the south with glass to expand his display area. His perpendicular sign is not legal, so if he removes it, he cannot replace it as is. Members were in agreement with the changes.

b) 489 Main Street ~ the ca. 1880 Leonard P. Benton House modifications were not well received by the Planning Board on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing was continued to April 1. Marcia will attempt to meet with the developer before then to discuss façade changes, especially the 3/1 windows.

c) Historic Preservation Planning Forum ~ scheduled for Monday March 30 at the Lexington Depot (now home to the Historical Society) at 4 pm. Members are encouraged to attend this 2 hour session regarding the tools and strategies that can be utilized to plan for historic preservation. Approximately 80 attendees are expected from the North Shore to MetroWest and will include both town and city planners as well as historic commission members. This is exactly the kind of event that the Historical Assets Team (Historical Commission members from the 9 cities and towns in the North Shore Planning Council region) was advocating for.

d) Weiss Farm ~ No one has seen a decision from the Housing Appeals Committee that was due Feb 9. There is a document posted on the town webpage on 2/17/15 from Attorney Witten that summaries his process and reasoning for the conclusion that Stoneham has low or moderate income housing on sites comprising 1.5% of land dedicated to affordable housing.

Work continues on the land swap of Weiss Farm for the Oaks Golf Course, but the hearings have been held in executive session.

The meeting ended at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary