

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 31, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

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

Guest: Gin Vilante, Wellman Associates

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

1. North School

- Mr. Collins was unable to attend due to illness and asked to be excused until our next meeting.

2. First Congregational Church

- Gin Vilante from Wellman Associates presented a plan to conceal the GPS antenna for cell phone 911 triangulation in the small cupola atop the Purpose School roof.
- Members agreed that one panel on the west side of the cupola would be replaced by a matching fiberglass section.
- Gin also noted that the generator position at the northeast corner of the Purpose School does not meet Stoneham code for a corner lot and will not be installed. Backup batteries should last 12 hours in the event of a power failure to provide enough time for delivery of a backup generator.

3. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of March 3 were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Joan made the Treasurer's report of \$355 in our operating budget and \$1,160 in the donation account.

5. Website

- Nothing new to report except Marcia will request that Erin Sinclair try again to put the contents in alphabetic order.

6. House Markers

- No new requests.
- 12 Cottage St is researched back to Richard Qualters in 1870. No occupation for him has been discovered yet.

7. Burial Ground

- Marcia met with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel on March 27. A third draft for the gravestone restoration work is in progress. The list of 39 high risk gravestones will be prioritized with the ones that could topple appearing high on the list.

8. Tidd Gates

- Marcia visited the site again and the Pandolfo brothers expect the sign can be installed in mid-April. Paul volunteered to help with the delivery.

9. Fundraising – tax bills

- No progress.

10. Civil War Grant

- Marcia is waiting for one piece of information from NARA regarding Col. Gould needed to finish the draft of the sign. No decision was reached about a dedication for and the location of the historic marker.

11. Weiss Farm

- The public comment period ended in February for the January 13 revision submitted by John M. Corcoran & Company. MassHousing has not ruled on the request for project eligibility from Corcoran for 264 residential units. See the Town's web page for ongoing information about the project.

12. Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Law

- Paul turned in two of three forms and Joanne turned in one outstanding form. Outstanding documents: Paul & Steve owe their certificates from the Conflict of Interest on-line test.

13. Joint Meeting May 8

- As a follow-up to our last meeting, a list of 80 addresses of historic homes was presented. The Assessor's office has agreed to confirm the names of owners and provide mailing labels. Margaret has drafted a letter regarding the 'Preservation of New England Properties' presentation.

14. 7 Stonehill Drive

- A Section 106 request from EBI Consulting for AT&T to replace existing cell antennae was considered. No change to the existing faux walls will be made. Marcia will write a letter indicating "no adverse effect" on historical properties in the area.

15. Heritage Award

- Of the three nominations presented, the members agree to present the Award to Emily Allard for her community service project in the historic Lindenwood Cemetery that led to her Girl Scout Gold award.

16. Demo Delay By-Law

- Local resident Jim Sullivan wrote a letter to the Selectmen dated February 24 regarding 38 Pleasant Street (aka 36 Pleasant St). In it he noted that "threats to older structures will continue to increase in the coming years as developers pursue tear down strategies to create sites for new condominiums and apartments".
- In response to the letter, Mr. Ragucci convened a meeting of Mr. Sullivan, Attorney Solomon and Marcia Wengen on March 18. Attorney Solomon opined that a well written demo delay by-law would pass Town Meeting. A decision was made to invite Mr. Sullivan to a Historical Commission meeting to discuss demolition delay as a preservation tool.

17. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 6.

The meeting ended at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary