

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 11, 2015 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen, Dolly Wilson, Margaret Zoladkowski

Absent: Robert Shannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Reorganization

- Margaret Warren welcomed new member Margaret Zoladowski who was appointed by the Selectmen to a three year term until April 30, 2018 and Dolly Wilson who was appointed by the Selectmen as an Alternate Member until April 30, 2016. The slate of officers for the coming year was voted unanimously as follows: Co-Chair: Margaret Warren, Co-Chair and Secretary: Marcia Wengen; Treasurer: Joan Quigley.

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) Greenway Walk & Historical Tour ~ Dolly Wilson presented a slide show of historic sites along the Greenway. A walk from Gould Street to the Woburn town line is scheduled for Saturday June 13 at 2 pm. Of particular interest was information from the Boston and Maine Railroad Archives at the University of MA Libraries in Lowell.
- b) Operating Account Balance ~ Our meeting of June 1 will include a discussion of the Nobility Hill National Historic District. Members agreed to encumber remaining funds in our Operating Account to be used for signage. Treasurer Joan Quigley will give us a balance after the Heritage Award material is paid for.
- c) Preservation Month 2016 – Vision Plan ~ Currently the Commission holds two events to celebrate Preservation Month: presentation of our Heritage Award and a joint meeting with the Historical Society. A subcommittee will be formed next month to investigate other opportunities to honor our heritage and participate in the Stoneham Square Vision Plan. Suggestions included: a lecture by historian Dee Morris, upgrading our historic walk, a trolley tour, an organ concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer, expanding the Winter Carnival Ball, one large 'fun' event such as the "strolling of the heifers" in Brattleboro, VT.
- d) Signage for Greenway ~ Dolly Wilson noted that MassDOT will pay for three transportation related signs for the Greenway. Dolly will inquire about the name of the firm chosen for signage. She expects that firm will design the sign from our content/pictures. Groundbreaking is expected in the spring of 2016.
- e) Open Meeting Law-Conflict of Interest ~ all members have completed this annual requirement.
- f) Demo Delay Workshop ~a workshop of "Administering Demolition Delay Bylaws" will be held at the Reading Senior Center on Wednesday May 27 from 4-6 pm. Marcia also invited local resident Jim Sullivan, Attorney Solomon, Town Administrator David Ragucci, and Town Planner Erin Wortman.

5. Old Business

- a) Website ~ In preparation for our June 1 meeting, the 22 page nomination form for the Nobility Hill National Historic District (1989) will be added.
- b) House Marker Program ~ we are in receipt of an application and check for 49 Lindenwood Road. The owners have done considerable research on their own. No

application has appeared for 24 West Street. Dolly Wilson will send in an application of 181 Central Street. 18 Chestnut Street is partially completed.

- c) 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. No progress has been made the 'at risk' gravestone repairs that need to be made with the \$9,500. The list of most hazardous stones will need revision since the Master Plan of 2012. Consider an 'adopt-a-gravestone' program to raise additional money.
- d) Civil War Grant ~ Margaret Zoldakowski reviewed the PDF file of the sign for William Tidd's Gateposts. She would like to know what software it was created with. The carte-de-visite of Col. Gould is of sufficient resolution to appear on the sign. The DPW Deputy Director and the Lindenwood Superintendent are reviewing Col. Gould's eight grave lot for placement of the sign.
- e) Recording History ~ the Chesterton building is either demolished or will be soon to make way for the Stoneham Crossing apartment complex. The developer, Fairchild Residential, is willing to give us a wall in the clubhouse to record the history of the land: Marble Ridge Dairy, Fallon Farm, and Chesterton.
- f) Dow Block ~ no progress by Building Inspector on illegal cable tray on north side of building or bracketed fixture on roof that should be inside one of the faux chimneys.
- g) SEEM Lease ~ On April 9, the School Committee voted to approve the following language to the SEEM lease to protect the exterior of the building whether or not a ten year lease is approved: "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 except in consultation with the Historical Commission." On May 4, Town Meeting voted 'yes' on Warrant Article 16 which allows for the Old Central School at 25 William Street to be leased to the SEEM Collaborative for up to 10 years.

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. On April 29, the Planning Board approved the changes to the third floor dormer. The project moves on to the Board of Selectmen. Marcia will write a letter of support for their June 9 public hearing.

The meeting ended at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary