

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 6, 2004 - Meeting Minutes
Public Library

Present: David Armato, Rosemarie McDonald, Margaret O'Keefe, Marcia Wengen, Matthew Whooley, Christopher Willard

Excused: Stephen Rotondi

Mr. Willard called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of November 1, 2004. Mrs. O'Keefe reported no change to the Treasurer's report showing a balance \$380.46 as of today.
2. Old Business – Dr. Paicos' Project. Chris has no new information. Now that Dr. Paicos is concentrating on Haywardville, does Steve have any additional information?
3. Web Site – Chris is still attempting to contact Mr. Cicatelli regarding the standard template and the Town's interest/ability to host our web site.
4. Love's Furniture Building - Letter to Joe Cunningham is still in draft stage. Peggy reported an unconfirmed rumor that the top floor was "loaded with stuff" which made the suppression of a small fire difficult 5-10 years ago. The letter to Joe will now include a request to save any historical memorabilia for our review. Marcia will make a request that the HC be allowed to photograph the inside of the building to create a historical record.
5. Fosdick House – Dan Shields, owner of 18th and 19th Recycling, states that he has a written agreement with Mr. Melkonian to deconstruct the building and salvage the 1776 frame. The asbestos will be removed during November and Dan Shields expects to begin by mid-December. Mr. Melkonian has agreed to the dates. A machine was observed on the property recently, but its purpose was not ascertained. Perhaps it belonged to the asbestos removal crew.
6. Donation Account – Peg has the signed letter from Steve and will make arrangements to set up the account. The \$1,000 check is made out incorrectly and will be fixed. The Town's policy is for departments to turn back any unused operating money at fiscal year end; therefore, there is no opportunity to put any unused portion of the \$385 into the donation account. Ron Florino is aware of the \$1,000 and sees no need to inform the Selectmen, as the amount is small. He would not single out the HC in his budget if he needed to cut money. Chris talked about asking for donations publicly, perhaps for a specific project, keeping in mind that we do not want to

adversely impact the HS. The members tabled a discussion regarding the guidelines for using the money in the donation account until Steve returns.

7. Donation Account IRS 170 (C) – Ron Florino stated on November 4th that he was 99% sure that contributions to the Historical Commission would be tax deductible. Marcia reported speaking with an Exempt Organization Specialist at the IRS on December 3. If the HC is considered part of the Town, then contributions made exclusively for “public purposes” are deductible and the HC can use the Town’s “04” number. If the HC is considered an affiliate of the Town, known as an “instrumentality”, then contributions may be deductible and the HC would need to apply for its own “04” number. The Specialist also discussed the 501(C) 3 status. The members are comfortable that the HC is part of the Town rather than an affiliate of the Town and see no need to seek and opinion from Town Counsel.
8. Sam Miles Circle – Bee Russo of the Historical Society called Steve to ask about a joint project to rename Sam Miles Circle. The HC members agreed. Chris Willard came up with the idea of involving the townspeople and elementary schoolchildren in picking an appropriate name. This provides an opportunity to get recognition for the HC and the HS while acknowledging the loss of the house and educating the Town about its history. Steve will ask if the HS can provide more definitive histories on four tentative names that can be used on the "ballots". The HC agreed on three: Andrew Beard Circle, Timothy Baldwin Circle and Micah’s Pond Circle.
9. OBG Fence Replacement: No further information. Keep item on the agenda.
10. New Business – Newspaper Article on 357 William Street teardown: The following steps will be implemented. First, Mark Haggerty will be queried regarding the option of a series of 6-7 articles or the possibility of running the story in the Middlesex East section of the local paper. Second, Rosemarie will investigate the Globe as a alternative to publication locally. Rosemarie is willing to edit the series if consolidation is necessary.
11. MACRIS Database – the Mass Historical Commission database shows 273 properties on Stoneham’s inventory of historically significant properties, including 72 on the State Register of Historic Places. The 1979 inventory copied from the HS has more than 273 properties, but no forms for properties listed on the State Register. More research needs to be done to determine the definitive list. We may want to consider photocopying the books from the HS twice so that one copy can be logged into the Public Library as reference material and one copy can be the working copy for the HC.
12. Reference Library – The members have a copy of Publication Order forms from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the National Register of Historic Places. Next month we will discuss what publications should be

ordered. Chris believes that PDF files can be downloaded to a CD and brought to a copy facility (Staples, for example) for printing at a reasonable price (based on page count.)

13. Open Forum – Chris detailed his research concerning demolition delay bylaws. He particularly likes the Wakefield by-law. He plans to have a draft for us to discuss at next month's meeting. We may want to place an article on the Town Meeting Warrant in May.
14. Open Forum – Matt talked with Mike Ryan, President of the Friends of the Fells regarding the Tudor Barn. Apparently the Friends have agreed to or already raised \$4,000 which will be matched. It was noted that the Friends are also seeking \$35,000 for their Fund to defend the Boston Regional Medical Center site. The Tudor Barn Restoration Project is currently \$50,000 short of funds. Should Mr. Gutierrez be approached to help pay for this project?

The meeting ended at 8:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary