

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 13, 2010 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

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

Excused: Joanne DiMambro

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

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of November 1, 2010 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$367.01 in the operating account \$1,239 in the donation account.

3. Web Site

- No progress.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- A request was received from the Grometstein family at 198 Franklin St. for Professor Queen's house (Charles B. Melvin, Jr.) listed as presdigitator (magician). The date will be 1892, 3 or 4. Margaret remembered there is no 1893 tax book in the HS. The owner was shown an article from the Independent at a HS Research Day about the house being built but she does not have a copy. Steve noted there is no access to the HS until after the holidays.
- 8 Gerry Street: there was a house on the lot when Orin Hersam sold it to John W. Cole, Painter in 1856.
- No request was received from the owners of 140 Pond Street.
- No request was received from the owners of the old Town House.
- Marcia will continue to research the Tay House at 51 Elm St. for date clues to the look-a-like house are 68 Elm.
- A historic marker was discussed for the Hancock Street home of C. Fannie Allyn (CFA), 19th century feminist, interested in temperance spiritualism and labor reform. It was decided that the HC should not buy markers for private homes. When we are sure of the address and know more information about CFA we could consider contacting the current owners.

5. Burial Ground

- An overhanging tree branch has been trimmed.
- Steve reported seeing a group of young girls in the OBG, perhaps they were scouts.
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6. Adaptive Reuse of School Buildings

- Marcia presented the RFP that Wakefield issued for the adaptive reuse of its 1902 Franklin School (elementary). The restrictions on the sale of this town

owned land and school building limit the development to condos if the building is reused or 8 single or two family homes if the building is demolished. Reuse of the building requires the developer to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is defined altering or adding to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

- Marcia noted that although the North School is not listed on the State or National Registers, its 1938 plans were drawn up by the noted architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins and Greeley who have an extensive portfolio of historic buildings including the Mass College of Pharmacy and the original Federal Reserve Building.
- Marcia heard unofficially that SEEM Collaborative may not renew its rental of North School for September, 2011.
- Margaret noted that this is the time for us to be proactive about preserving historic buildings.
- Steve announced a conflict of interest that could keep him from discussing or voting on the adaptive reuse of North School.
- It was agreed that Marcia would meet with the Town Administrator to discuss the adaptive reuse of North School and report back to the Historical Commission.

7. Dow Block Telecommunication Antennas

- Marcia had no update from Mike Dufour, Chair of the Zoning Board. She will follow-up about the Metro/PCS faux chimneys.

8. New Business

- Margaret presented a 12/10 e-mail from Becky Napoleon, writer for a new online Stoneham newspaper at www.stoneham.patch.com, requesting information about the Almshouse. This would be the first of a weekly feature spotlighting historic buildings in town beginning on Dec 15.
- Given the short notice, Marcia volunteered to provide already existing information about the fire station instead.
- Paul checked the web and discovered that Patch is nation-wide including other towns in MA.
- Steve noted that Becky could download the Walking tour brochure from the Society's webpage for information about other historic buildings.
- Due to scheduling conflicts the next meeting will be on Monday January 10 at the Senior Center.

The meeting ended at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary