

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

February 6, 2006 - Meeting Minutes

Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* David Armato, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard  
*Guests:* Scout Leaders Linda Corapi and Terri Frederick; Scouts Nicole Willard, Daniela Colucci, Michelle Corapi, Alora Frederick.

Steve Rotondi called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports – The minutes for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as presented. There was no January meeting due to lack of a quorum. The Treasurer's report: \$385 for operating expenses with \$100 earmarked for the speaker in May.
2. New Business – Chris introduced Linda Corapi and her Girl Scout troop explaining that they could be interested in preparing the Old Burying Ground inventory as one of their Silver Award projects. The need to mark off sections, record and photograph each of the 500+ head and footstones was discussed. Marcia will locate the Canton cemetery article for Linda to read. There is a map of the OBG created in the 1940's as part of a WPA project, which could be the basis for the gridlines. Chris is working on web enabled software that we could use to record the text/pictures of the headstones.
3. Web Page - Chris reported that Stoneham has contracted with a company call Virtual Town Hall to create town web pages. Go live is tentatively set for March. Chris reported that Tom Cicatelli said there would be no link from the Stoneham pages to our Historical Commission page. The members viewed the HC web page at <http://www.stonehamhistoricalcommission.us>. The page is shaping up nicely and Chris has some additional modifications to make.
4. Rename Sam Miles Circle – The Board of Selectmen voted on Dec 13, 2005 to send a letter to the Planning Board regarding the correct street name and the plastic bag over the sign. Chairman Sweeney reported to Marcia that the Town still holds Mr. Santullo's bond and that it can be used a leverage to make him comply. It is not known if the Planning Board ever received the letter. Marcia will research the water bills again for the properties to see which street name was used.
5. Membership – Steve will remind Amy Brough Palmerino (channel 9) about posting a message for volunteers to the Historical Commission. Marcia met two people at "Research Your House" Day who may be worth approaching.

6. Annual Report – Steve will work on the Annual Report (calendar year 2005) and deliver it to Muriel Doherty as soon as possible. Marcia will send photos to Muriel.
7. Funding for Fire Station Restoration– Brian Domoretzky, Legislative Aide to Paul Casey, reports that the Supplemental Budget remains in a House/Senate Conference Committee, where members are working towards a compromise on different versions passed by each branch. He continues to be hopeful that the \$200,000 will remain untouched as the language and dollar amount is the same in both versions.
8. Tudor Barn – David reported that the restoration of the historic building, as a partnership of the DCR and Friends of the Fells, is progressing, but incomplete. The masonry rebuild and the new structure is in place. Currently there is blue tarp covering a portion of the roof. The work is expected to be completed in the spring.
9. Spot Pond Brook Bridge Rehabilitation – in a letter dated Nov 29, 2005, the Massachusetts Historical Commission opined that DCR's project to rebuild the failed arch of the bridge would have "no adverse effect" on the Spot Pond Archaeological District. Wendy Pearl of the DCR plans to have contractors work on the project of the winter because the bridge is so deteriorated.
10. Central School Building – Marcia has not photographed the Central School yet so that the Commission can pursue adding the building to the state's MACRIS database. Chris can arrange for the film to be processed to provide archival quality photographs for the submission.
11. Correspondence
  - Realtor Carolyn Lassiter notified Marcia Wengen that the Padilla Beard House at 18 Maple Street was sold to Mark and Margaret Warren. She described them as "a lovely couple who have an appreciation and fondness of history". The house is on the National Register and dates to ca. 1850.
  - Bee Russo provided the HC with a copy of a letter from Julie Koprek Comerford whose family lived in the Warren Sweetser House for 41 years. Mrs. Comerford of Old Saybrook, CT. wrote the letter to Rick Johnson to thank him for saving the house.
  - Mary P. Shanahan, Principal of Saint Patrick School, wrote a thank you note for the gift of the Images of Stoneham book to their library.
  - Brona Simon of the Massachusetts Historical Commission wrote a letter to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs dated December 23, 2005 noting that MHC's November 14<sup>th</sup> comments on the Langwood Commons Notice of Project Change (NPC) were not included the NPC and recommended that EOEA consider MHC's comments in their review.

- A letter was sent to Cheryl Noble, Building Inspector, regarding the deed restriction on the ca. 1830-40 house at 342 William Street. Copies of the January 9, 2006 letter were sent to the Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Town Administrator. Chris recommended that we draft a letter to the real estate agents regarding this preservation incentive.
- 12. SHC Library – Mary Todd is willing to give us a shelf in the Stoneham Room for our small library of 15 books, but she does not have the staff to catalogue them and cannot assume responsibility for their safety. Marcia was asked to check with Mary about the cost of alarm strips for the volumes. Chris is willing to add them to the SHC web page and suggested the web links for the National Register Bulletins be also added.
- 13. Demo Delay by-law – All members have the draft copy. We need a marketing plan before taking this to Town Meeting.
- 14. Preservation Initiatives – The drafted letter regarding North Reading's zoning ordinance that allows lot size and frontage reductions in the interest of preservation should be directed to the Planning Board. We will wait until after the April 4<sup>th</sup> town elections.

The meeting ended at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen,  
Secretary