

## STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 7, 2005 - Meeting Minutes  
Public Library

*Present:* David Armato, Rosemarie McDonald, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard

*Excused:* Margaret O'Keefe, Stephen Rotondi

*Absent:* Matthew Whooley

Mr. Willard called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of January 3, 2005. Mrs. O'Keefe's e-mail was read into the minutes as follows: "There were no monies spent this month so the balance of the Treasurer's report remains the same as last month - \$361.52. I also gave our budget for FY-06 to Ron Florino on January 6<sup>th</sup> and I will have copies of it for the March meeting." Mr. Willard asked that Mrs. O'Keefe get an update from Ron Florino regarding our request.
2. Old Business – Dr. Paicos' Project. Chris has no new information on Dr. Paicos' project. Perhaps it is time to take this item off the agenda until Dr. Paicos has an update.
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 was signed and mail on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cunningham has not responded to telephone messages regarding our taking interior pictures of the building before it is renovated. Chris asked if it might be possible for the Commission to "tag along" with department that might be doing an inspection.
5. Fosdick House – Dan Shields, owner of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Recycling in Spencer, MA, has "deconstructed" 39 Elm Street back to its oak and pine frame. On Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, the numbered joists, rafters, posts, etc. were taken down and on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> they were loaded on a flatbed and taken away. Dan will store the field drawings and the frame until a preservationist can be found to purchase and reassemble the 229-year-old house. Given that Dan will not receive any money for his efforts until he sells the frame, Marcia thinks it unlikely that the Commission will receive a donation from him. In the future, we should try to negotiate a percentage when a building is taken on speculation.
6. Donation Account – This item needs to stay on the agenda until we discuss the preservation project(s) that the money should be used for. Chris recommended that we also discuss how to promote the existence of the

account for future donations. Ron Florino told Marcia previously that the value of the \$1000 donation was too small to notify the Selectmen.

7. Newspaper Articles – the second of seven articles on the Williams-Linscott house was printed in the Independent last week. Marcia gave both the Independent and the Sun, pictures/captions for the 39 Elm Street project on Jan 21st, but neither paper has printed them. Marcia reported that Danielle, who had offered to write a story for the Globe about the proposed demo delay by-law, is unable to do so because of her contract to write for another newspaper owned by the Herald.
8. Sam Miles Circle – Chris reported that Joe Casey, Assistant Superintendent would be interested in receiving a letter from the Commission regarding the involvement of the elementary schools in the renaming of Sam Miles Circle. Is the PTO a possible source of help for this project? During a “corridor conservation” with Marcia, Chairman Ciccarello suggested the Commission come up with a new name and present it to the Board of Selectmen. Marcia reported that Mary Marchant had expressed concern that Sam Miles Circle may be registered in Land Court. The quitclaim deed dated June 8, 2004 makes no mention of Sam Miles Circle. Letters were sent to the Public Works Director, the Fire and Police Chiefs asking for comments. The only concern is that the new street name not sound like or be similar to an existing street. Marcia will check with Mr. Grover about changing “circle” to “way” or “drive”.
9. Reference Library – Our library still consists of 6 books/reports. The members should come to next month’s meeting prepared to recommend additional books. They range in price from free to \$25 and we need to make the best use of available funds.
10. Annual Town Report – The members read Steve’s concise Annual Report and made two suggestions to clarify the content. In particular, the 39 Elm Street “deconstruction” and subsequent rebuilding of the frame was emphasized.
11. Proposed Demolition Delay By-Law – Marcia will make the additions and changes to Chris’ proposed By-Law and send copies to the members. Attorney Solomon will need a copy before the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chris noted that the By-Law change can go on the May warrant with 10 signatures, but would need 100 signatures for the October meeting. Rosemarie noted that previously when the Commission presented such a by-law it failed to pass and that not enough work had been done to educate the public about its benefits.
12. Letter to MHC – Members received the signed copy of the Commission’s letter to Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director at the Mass Historical Commission regarding the demolition of 357 William Street.

13. Tudor Barn – The \$186,000 budget is funded, although it remains to be seen if the new DCR Commissioner will move the project forward. No viable contractor was identified to do the stabilization work in December. The barn continues to deteriorate. The specs are being re-written for all the work to be done in one phase this Spring. Wendy Pearl from DCR will appear before the Conservation Commission again in March.
  
14. New Business – resignation of Mat Whooley: The Commission has verbal notice that Mat has resigned due to his involvement with the Finance Board and his candidacy for the School Committee. Two Stoneham residents expressed interest in “things historical” during Town Day last September. The members think it unlikely that an appointment will be made before the advertisements for volunteers are run in April. Marcia will inquire about a resignation letter.
  
15. New Business – Sweetser House Public Hearing: Marcia will try to attend the National Register Nomination hearing on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The members asked her to convey their enthusiasm for the project.
  
16. New Business – July 26, 2004 letter from Chairman Ciccarello: Marcia pointed out that the William Street letter was never sent to the Historical Commission. David questioned the comment in the letter about burials. Marcia noted that in spite of Mr. Santullo’s denial regarding headstones on the property, there are photographs in the Planning Office files showing them leaning against the side of the house. An interment card at the Cemetery Office reveals burials in Richardson/Williams lot of Lindenwood Cemetery that had to have been exhumed from another location(s). Since the lot has a very large granite marker, it is not surprising that the original markers were left behind. There is one other known instance of two abandoned marble markers found in town (the bodies were probably in the William Street Cemetery, which was closed in 1899, and moved to Lindenwood).

17. Open Forum – no business

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary