

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 3, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Paul Foley, Joan Quigley, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Excused: Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of December 2 were approved. There was no January meeting due to lack of a quorum.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan made the Treasurer's report of \$355 in our operating budget and \$1,160 in the donation account. She made the final payment to the stone conservator of \$1,101 for the restoration of Col. Gould's gravestone.

3. Website

- No change to our website.

4. House Markers

- No new marker requests. Research on 21 Cottage St. is in progress.

• Burial Ground

- Marcia will prepare a bid proposal that combines like projects for the 39 high risk gravestones; i.e., all stones that require straightening, all stones that are broken and, if necessary, a miscellaneous category. Town Administrator requested she ask for a project price as well as a per unit price.

5. Tidd Gates

- Marcia spoke with the contractor recently and learned that the area north of the gateposts on Hancock Street will be landscaped in the spring.

6. North School

- The framing and electrical work has begun. Three window areas on the east side have been enlarged to accommodate patio doors. The steps and sidewalk to the south entrance were removed in the re-grading of the west side of the building. No date of completion is known.

7. Fundraising – tax bills

- Steve sent an email today stating, "I haven't heard back from the town hall about donation account since I told them we would like to proceed."

8. Civil War Grant

- The final report from the stone conservator was distributed. Col. Gould's marker should be surveyed annually. The biocide is expected to keep lichen and algae growth at bay for about 2 years.
- Stoneham was one of 24 communities who were awarded \$91,000 in matching grants from the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in 2013.
- This year the Commission is offering matching grants up to \$7,500. In addition to monument and marker restoration, this year's money can be used to preserve and digitize documents related to the Civil War. Due date is April 1, 2014.
- The members discussed the grant opportunity but no decision was reached. Marcia will notify the Historical Society about the grant.

9. Weiss Farm Comment Period

- A new proposal from John M. Corcoran & Company for "The Commons at Weiss Farm" was submitted to MassHousing on January 13. Copies were distributed to the members. Attorney Witten will speak at the Selectmen's meeting tomorrow, Tuesday Feb 4 at 7:15 p.m. Comments are due to MassHousing by Feb. 26.

10. 7 Stonehill Drive

- Members agreed to send a Section 106 “no adverse effect” letter regarding the Verizon Wireless project to co-locate antenna at 63 feet on the 114-foot building.

11. Mass DOT Real Time Traffic Management

- Members agreed to send a Section 106 “limited adverse effect” letter regarding the installation of a permanent message sign and Bluetooth reader on Route I-93 northbound that will display real time traffic flow information.

12. Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Law

- Joan and Marcia turned in their paperwork. Margaret will deliver her paperwork. Paul was not notified. Marcia will resend.

13. Annual Report

- Our 2013 report was submitted on January 21, 2014.

14. Speaker for Joint Meeting

- The guest speaker for the Historical Society/ Commission on May 8 will be Joe Cornish from Historic New England.

15. Fund Raising

- Cummings Properties allows each of their 350 full-time employees to direct \$1,000 twice a year to the 501(c)3 or equivalent charities of their choice. None of us know any of Cummings’ employees.

16. Alternate Member

- Mass Historical Commission sent an email today noting that Chapter 40 Section 8D was amended to allow for alternate members on local historical commissions. This helpful change will provide a method of reaching a quorum when a meeting does not have enough regular members. Marcia will investigate.

The meeting ended at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary