

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 7, 2011 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

Present: Paul Foley, Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi,
Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.
Guest: Mary Todd

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. Book Presentation

- Mary Todd, Library Director accepted our donation of books: *Architects Make Zigzags: Looking at Architecture from A to Z* by Diane Maddex, *Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs* by Maureen Taylor, *Iggy Peck, Architect* by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts, *New Rooms for Old Houses: Beautiful Additions for the Traditional Home (National Trust for Historic Preservation)* by Frank Shirley and Randy O'Rourke, *Capes: Design Ideas for Renovating, Remodeling, and Building New (Updating Classic America)* by Jane Gitlin, and *Organizing and Preserving Your Heirloom Documents* by Katherine Scott Sturdevant

2. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of January 10, 2011 were approved. The web address in item 10 did not print. It is: www.stoneham.patch.com

3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$367.01 in the operating account \$1,239 in the donation account.
- Members votes to approve payment of Marcia's three parking vouchers for trips to the Cambridge Registry of Deeds totaling \$16.50.

4. Web Site

- Marina Memmo added thumbnails of Margaret's house marker pictures to the list of house markers. We thank them for their efforts.
- Marcia added the 2010 Heritage Award picture and the call for 2011 Heritage Award nominations.

5. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications.
- Margaret and Marcia prepared a list of historic house markers: 22 are finished and mounted; 7 are open and 7 are of interest although no formal applications have been sent in.
- A unfavorable reply as received from the Historical Society regarding our evaluation form to access folders in Joanne Harriman's file and tax books related to historic houses. Steve will put this item on the agenda for the next HS Board meeting.

6. Burial Ground

- The Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund is accepting grant applications by March 25 for the \$780,000 to \$800,000 allotment for 2011.
- A requirement for our grant application to develop a preservation plan for the OBG, we need to show community support. Marcia sent requests of our 3 state legislators; Jason Lewis has agreed to send a letter of support. Members also suggest the Historical Society, Ed Markey, the Helping Our Troops group, Maureen Buckley for the scouts and David Ragucci.

7. Adaptive Reuse of School Buildings

- Marcia reported that Board of Selectmen Chairman Rotondi is receptive to receiving a letter about the North and East school buildings with conditions from the Historical Commission.
- As of Feb 2, Town Administrator David Ragucci had no answer from the Superintendent about the status of SEEM continuing to lease the schools.
- Members reviewed the draft of a cover letter and conditions for the adaptive reuse of the two schools. Extensive changes were made and Marcia will edit the document in preparation for Steve's signature as he no longer has a conflict of interest on this project.
- Marcia is meeting with Selectman DePinto on Feb 14 and will call Selectmen Vallarelli for an appointment. Selectmen Gregorio is willing to meet but wants David Ragucci there. No contact from Selectman Sweeney yet.

8. Dow Block Telecommunication Antennas

- Nothing new.

9. Annual Report

- Members reviewed a draft of the 2010 Annual Report. Steve added comments about the Preservation Restriction and the Mass Memories Road Show.

10. Open Forum

- Marcia noted the collapse of Joe Cunningham's vacant two family house at 18/18A Common Street on February 4 under the weight of snow.
- A January 24 email was sent to the HC from DCR inviting us to make a presentation about historical structures in the Middlesex Fells on February 23. This is one in a series of public workshops to gather information for DCR to develop a Resource Management Plan for the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Marcia and Marina will put together a PowerPoint presentation. Margaret will check her calendar to see if she is available to make the presentation.
- Joan made note of Medford's *Civil War Roundtable*. They are a knowledgeable group of Civil War buffs who might be willing to speak at the April HS meeting.
- Steve discussed his interest in putting Weiss Farm on the agenda for next month. This historic property is the last farm in Stoneham.

The meeting ended at 8:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary