

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

January 3, 2012 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Paul Foley, Tammy Ford, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of December 5, 2011 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$385 in the operating fund and \$1,254 in the donation account was approved.

3. Welcome

- Steve welcomed our newest member Tammy Ford who was appointed by the Selectmen until April 30, 2013.

4. Website

Tammy presented a plan to create a web page for the Commission using one of three free services: Google, Weebly or Wix.com. One or more social media outlets, such as a Facebook page (rather than a Facebook account), will be considered. Both will contribute to the visibility of the HC mission and programs. Tammy will create a mock-up for us to review next month. She is awaiting a response from Tom Cicutelli, the town's information technologist, about linkage to the new pages from the town's web site.

5. Historic House Marker Program

- Applications have been received from the mother of the owner of 91 Marble St and the owner of 193 Franklin Street. Marcia provided an updated list.
- Joan will conduct probate research on Josiah Green for 49 Perkins St.
- Marcia reported that Mark at Gamit Signs will have three markers outstanding since June ready on Friday Jan 6 at no charge.
- Marcia has been in touch with Paula Salerno, a sign maker in Holliston, who solicited the HC last April about her historic markers. Paula noted that the house shape complicates production and raises the cost. Marcia asked her for a bid on our existing format and a simpler version to be presented at the HC meeting in February. Two questions will need to be addressed: how to handle the price difference between \$55 and the new price for signs already requested and whether the market will bear the new price.

6. Burial Ground

- The OBG Request for Proposals has been revised and reissued because no proposals were submitted on Dec 6.
- The new due date is January 24, 2012 and the requirements for the ground penetrating radar, GPS coordinates for each gravestone and a historical narrative are eliminated. The inventory is requested to be an update to the 2007

Eagle Scout inventory. Five vendors have accessed the RFP. The briefing/site visit is scheduled for Thursday January 5, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

- Marcia reported that the blue National Register sign in the Old Burying Ground was removed by Mark at Gamit signs for repainting.
- Marcia reported that the red *Preservation Works* sign has been erected in the OBG. It is a requirement of the Mass Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant.
- Steve reviewed the application for a flat cemetery marker for J. Parker Gould who is buried in Lindenwood Cemetery. Joan volunteered to research Colonel Gould's military records at NARA in Waltham. If she is unsuccessful, Marcia will order the records from Washington, DC at a cost of \$25.
- Marcia handed out *Terra Firma*, a publication of the DCR, concerning historic cemeteries. Stoneham's OBG is featured on page 6 as an example of the need for risk assessment on trees that have the potential to damage gravestones, wall and fences.

7. Adaptive Reuse

- Marcia noted that the East School sale to Beacon Partners is expected to be completed on or before January 19, 2012.
- At a 6 p.m. Town Hall public hearing tonight, Mark Drew presented the concerns and a list of developments (assisted living if under 50 units, single family homes, town homes but not as rentals) that would be acceptable to the Collincote Street neighbors. David Ragucci noted that the goal is to issue a new RFP, create a zoning by-law and identify a developer for a vote at the May Town Meeting.

8. New Business

- The members voted to support the Selectmen's December 13, 2011 letter to the Mass Water Resources Authority (MWRA) regarding the request to reroute the three mile pipeline rather than have it go through Stoneham. Marcia will draft the letter for review.

9. Open Forum

- Steve noted that Weiss Farm court proceedings have been postponed until April.
- Steve plans to have a draft of our Annual Report for the February 6th meeting. Marcia will find the Heritage award picture as part of the submission.
- Steve reminded us of the upcoming Heritage Award.
- Marcia reported that the fire station floor that slopes to meet the driveway was re-coated by a company that specializes in airport runways.
- Joan mentioned the addition being added to 86 Pleasant Street, likely the real Charles Gill house.
- Joan presented a newspaper clipping about the 1793 smallpox epidemic that killed a number of Stoneham residents including Rev. Cleaveland's wife Abigail, even though she was inoculated.
- The next meeting will be on Monday February 6, 2012 at 7 pm in the Public Library.

The meeting ended at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary