

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

January 10, 2011 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Senior Center

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

*Excused:* Paul Foley

*Guest:* Marina Memmo

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

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of December 13, 2010 were approved.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$367.01 in the operating account \$1,239 in the donation account.

### 3. Web Site

- No progress.

### 4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications.
- 8 Gerry Street: there was a house on the lot when Orin Hersam sold it to John W. Cole, Painter in 1856; to trace who Orin Hersam bought it from will require looking through 74 listings. Joan remembered seeing Orin on old census listings as a master builder which would explain the volume of transactions.
- By a vote of 3-2, the members agreed to send \$10 to the Historical Society along with an evaluation form to access folders in Joanne Harriman's file and tax books related to historic houses.
- Marcia will e-mail research status on 8 Gerry St (to Margaret) and 63 Elm St (to Joan) so they can update the owners.

### 5. Burial Ground

- Steve reviewed the OBG project to create a video about the "final addresses of famous Stonehamites" in which the HC members would tour the OBG and discuss the history of the Town's founding families. Joanne, Margaret, Joan and Marcia each have copies of their original research. Marina reminded Steve that she did some filming at one of the OBG open house events that could be the beginning of such a project. In studio presentations might be possible against the "green screen".

### 6. Adaptive Reuse of School Buildings

- Marcia reported that Town Administrator David Ragucci was receptive to the idea of a Request for Proposal for the rehabilitation of North and East schools should they come off line and be returned to the town.
- Action items: David will ask for a status on the buildings from Dr. Olsen; Marcia will discuss the need for such a project with various Selectmen.

7. Dow Block Telecommunication Antennas

- Marcia reported that the two faux chimneys from Metro/PCS are in place and look remarkably like the current chimneys with granite caps. Building inspector, Cheryl Noble is awaiting an installation report from the engineers before she gives her final approval.

8. Annual Report

- Members reviewed highlights of 2010 including the Heritage Award for the Police Box, on-going house marker program, town meeting approval of an OBG preservation restriction, markers identifying the architects for the Fire Station and Town Hall, and participation in the Mass Memories Roadshow.

9. Open Forum

- Becky Napoleon, writer for a new online Stoneham newspaper at [www.stoneham.patch.com](http://www.stoneham.patch.com), submitted on the Fire Station, the First Congregational Church and the John Botume House. None of the information on the last two buildings came from the Historical Commission.
- Marina explained that the Patch licensing agreement gives them rights to whatever text and photos we share with them. They own it and can use it any way they see fit, including to make money for themselves.
- The HC members agreed that our web page will not feature a link to her articles; if she requests additional information from the HC we will only provide existing work products and not do the research for her.
- Marina discussed two projects she is interested in developing this year: 1.) the 150 anniversary of the Civil War and Stoneham's participation in the Baltimore Riot of April 19, 1861 and 2.) 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. 9/11 photos and texts submitted by Stoneham residents could be appear on the Public Library web site.
- Steve is searching for a Civil War speaker for the April Historical Society meeting. Steve Heinstrom is a possibility.

The meeting ended at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary