

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

June 2, 2003 -- Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Rosemarie McDonald, Margaret O'Keefe, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen and Elizabeth Whelan, Christopher Willard

*Excused:* Peter Bracciotti

- 1) The meeting began at 7:35 PM. Chairman Rotondi distributed the agenda and welcomed Christopher Willard as the newest Commission member.
- 2) A motion to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2003 was made and seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- 3) Treasurer O'Keefe reported that no money was spent since the last meeting. She will confirm the amount of money allocated to the Historic Commission for 2004 with Mr. Berry.
- 4) The Chairman reported that Donna Weiss called him and is thrilled to receive this year's Heritage Award. The Secretary will arrange for the nameplate to be engraved after the new fiscal year and will also obtain cost estimates for a new plaque vs. an addition to the existing plaque.
- 5) Betty Whelan and Marcia Wengen will be able cover the Historic Commission table for Town Day, as it will be next to the table of Local Cultural Council. Possible handouts might include a survey about the 1916 fire station building and the care of slate roofs.
- 6) The joint meeting sponsored by the Commission and the Society will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Society. Dee Morris, a social historian, will speak on Victorian Spiritualism. Bee Russo has notified the newspapers. Flyers have been distributed to the Library, Town Hall, two banks and various merchants in the Square. Betty will notify other libraries. Rosemarie will post the notice at the Dairy Dome and the Inside Scoop.
- 7) The Secretary reported that Mary Pecoraro, Chair of the Selectmen, is very interested in the Community Preservation Act and that Michael Gallerani, Economic Development Director, is more positive about the CPA given that there is an exemption for seniors. Chairman Rotondi tabled the CPA and the Commission will await a recommendation from the Master Plan for the creation of a task force to explore the value of the CPA for Stoneham.

- 8) Chairman Rotondi discussed his recent conversation with Dr. Pacos regarding identification of historic landmarks on MDC land, including Haywardville. Dr. Pacos asked for volunteers. The Secretary will draft a letter to the appropriate person at the MDC for permission to undertake this project.
- 9) The members discussed Daniel Breslin/Price who died when the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor. Although he listed his residence as Stoneham, we can find no verification that he owned property or paid a poll tax in the Town's valuation books. The Secretary volunteered to check the last letter to see if additional information from the government is available. A suggestion was made to print a story in the local papers to see if any one might have additional information.
- 10) Peggy O'Keefe reported that Robert Dearth was unaware of any family relationship to C.I. Lewis or his wife Hannah Carlyn Dearth. Mr. Dearth did find it coincidental that his grandmother's last name was Lewis and that he grew up at 12 Congress Street.
- 11) The commission discussed the various aspects of a Historic Plaque Program, including identification of private homes, lost landmarks (Underground Railroad house) and the Town Common. The Chairman noted that the Rotary will be celebrating its 100 anniversary in 2005 and may be willing to fund all or some of such a program. He will raise the issue at the next Rotary Board meeting and report back to us.
- 12) The Commission reviewed the draft of the position paper on the 1916 fire station and recommended that all references to the Hancock Street location be removed.
- 13) Chairman Rotondi reported that Attorney Houghton has reviewed the preliminary guidelines from the Historic Parkway Initiative and stated that they are cosmetic in nature and that his client, Mr. Gutierrez, will has no problem meeting the requirements.
- 14) Chairman Rotondi indicated that Chief Lamey will attend our next meeting to discuss the fire station issues.
- 15) The Secretary distributed a meeting calendar. The next meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.
- 16) There was no business discussed in "open forum" and the meeting ended at 8:58 PM.

Submitted by, Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary