

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 4, 2012 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of May 8, 2012 were approved

2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$385 minus \$106.49 in expenses leaving a balance of \$278.51 in the operating fund and \$1,254 in the donation account was approved.
- Marcia presented a revised bid of \$475 + \$125 installation for an informational sign describing Mr. Tidd's circa 1860 gateposts. Members voted unanimously to encumber the \$278.51 as partial payment for the sign. Options for the balance could be a donation from the property owner or the Commission's 2013 budget. The \$125 can be waived because DPW will install the design with written permission from the owner. The \$278.51 will be used for books if the owner is unwilling to allow a sign on his property.
- Tammy will research the question of donations to the Commission or the Town being tax-deductible.

3. Website

- Tammy reported she will begin filming the OBG video soon. Her emphasis will be on town history; she has research packets on Rev. James Osgood, Capt. Samuel Sprague, Timothy Wright and Jonathan Green. Two other possibilities that Joan researched are Fife Major William Wilson and Army Nurse Hannah Arnold Bray.
- Tammy has not met with Tom Cicatelli yet to consolidate her web page with the Historical Commission's web page on the Stoneham site.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. 1 is complete (49 Perkins), 1 needs a decision (13 Hersam), 2 need minor research (3 Morrison, 91 Marble) and 1 is difficult because Amos Stone apparently never lived in his land (193 Franklin)
- Steve requested that the photo of the 1852 Almshouse marker presentation be submitted to the newspaper.
- Joanne has heard nothing from her brother-in-law about a marker for his ca. 1887 house at 523 Main Street.

5. Burial Ground

- Marcia reported that the Preservation Master Plan project is on schedule. A meeting with the consultant was held on May 29 to discuss the 90% complete version. The existing seven prioritized projects will be subdivided. For example the first priority is addresses hazardous (7) and unstable gravestones (32). This will be separated into two projects; the first one will be the seven hazardous gravestones + the site preparation of removing nearby trees.

- Jim Previte, Tree Warden, surveyed the OBG and is agreeable to removing 12 of the 27 trees identified by the landscape architect as being invasive (Norway Maples) or showing decay/decline. There are 42 trees plus to 10' "stumps" at the southern edge.
- Marion Towse continues to oppose the use of Perpetual Care funds for OBG work. She understands the need for the project but believes the town should allocate funds rather than taking money from PC. Marcia will research this issue.
- One of the long range projects is to restore Rev Stevens' fence. Steve will check his 1975 slides of the OBG for any fences that might be in the background.
- Marcia will put a request in the newspaper for old OBG photos.
- The Town Meeting Warrant identified \$75,000 transferred from the Perpetual Care Income Fund to: 1.) balance the FY '13 budget (\$65K) and 2.) Lindenwood embellishments under Capital Projects (\$10K). Marcia will discuss with David Ragucci.

6. Heritage Award

- The presentation to Bruce Netten, Town organist, was made on May 22. Bruce and Steve were pictured on the front page of the May 30th *Independent* and Stoneham Patch offered a video of Steve's presentation speech.

7. Tremont Street

- Debi Longo, a local realtor, told Marcia last week that she has had no success reaching Deutsche Bank for access to 12 Tremont. Marcia requested that she let Bee Russo know when/if she does, as Bee knows a developer who may be interested in seeing the house, for a possible renovation.

8. Dow Block/Verizon Wireless

- Marcia attended the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on May 31. Attorney Valeriani presented Verizon's case for telecommunications atop the Dow Building. The members voted 5-0 to write a decision in support of the project by including the May 21 letter signed by Marcia on behalf of the Historical Commission. Mr. Juliano stipulated that if Atlantic Concealment was not an approved Verizon vendor, that the new chimneys must substantially match the existing faux chimneys from a street level view. Before the new chimneys are installed, the ZBA Board members must review the chosen material for compatibility.
- After this install there will be 13 chimneys atop the Dow Block. The ZBA will request an opinion from Town Counsel as to how many chimneys should be allowed.

9. New Business

- Marcia distributed the annual Conflict of Interest Law documentation. Members are required to go on line to complete the training, print out the receipt and send it to the Town Clerk by June 30.
- Marcia distributed the meeting schedule for 2012-2103. It was decided to change September's meeting to Monday the 10th at the Library. Town Day is Sept 15th.
- Members agreed that Marcia should gather information from the Mass Historical Commission regarding the procedure for obtaining an eligibility opinion for listing the 1901/1928 Old Central School to the National Register. Based on the presentation at Historical Commission/Historical Society meeting on May 17 it

appears that a positive eligibility opinion would give a developer access to historic tax credits, thus making the adaptive reuse of the building very attractive. Margaret pointed out that this could potentially increase the purchase price given the savings from the tax credit.

10. Open Forum

- Steve noted that the annual Open House date will be Saturday October 27 from 2-4 pm. It is also the day that the Chamber of Commerce sponsors the Halloween Walk in the Square.
- Tammy is interested in working on an Adopt-A-Grave campaign in the fall.
- Tammy received an informative package of information from the Mass Historical Commission regarding preservation in MA. The cover letter congratulated her on becoming a new member of the HC.
- Paul found a sign for the Shrewsbury Historical Society on page 10 of Tammy's Preservation Planning Manual that used the word 'established'. The question before the HC is the use of the word 'established' on the town web page that Mark Stevens feels should be changed to 'incorporated'.

The meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary