

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 5, 2017 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Hillary Fotino, Susan Larson, Joan Quigley, Marcia Wengen, Dolly Wilson, Margaret Zoladkowski. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of May 8 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- 3. Balance in operating account is \$5.63. This will not carry over to July 1. That balance will be \$385 + another \$600 as requested for signage. Treasurer Quigley spoke with Town Accountant about \$117 discrepancy in donation account. She believes our balance is \$2,240.04. More to follow.

4. Meeting Schedule

- A schedule of our meetings beginning in Sept was included in the package

5. Preservation Month –post mortem

- This Place Matters was not successful. Only one family participated in the Scavenger Hunt. Another way to engage students in the Hunt may be through the public schools.

6. Dairy Dome

- Local resident Scott Viselli is negotiating a 20 year lease with the Mayo Family for the purpose of starting a 'new American food' restaurant in the Dairy Dome. He has no intention about remodeling the building exterior. He is interested in one of our house marker signs.

7. Town Day – Sept 16

- The Historical Commission will not participate in this event.

8. Kid's Table

- Members agreed with supporting Town Planner Erin Wortman's idea of interactive arts projects for youngsters attending public hearings or events with their parents. Jigsaw puzzles with pictures of historical buildings can be created for under \$20 a box. Hillary will explore a 'Concentration' type game with pairs of matching cards (34 cards/18 pairs) using 'then and now' photos of Stoneham buildings. These could evolve into fundraising opportunities as long as the Commission accepts payment as 'donations'.

9. Shawmut Car Company signage

- Dolly will work on text for a sign on the site of the Shawmut Car Factory. Although we have funding, she is interested in approaching Attorney Houghton, as attorney for the Stoneham Ford Company to pay for the sign.

10. Town Organ Update

- Susan reported on an email from Jonathan Ortloff, who is a restorer and builder of organs, who will begin the unfinished restoration of our Mighty Wurlitzer in July. This is under the auspices of the Stoneham Organ Society. He stated that a concert this October would not be possible. Marcia noted that Rep Mike Day would 'love to have a grand concert to celebrate its full restoration'.

11. Hillary Articles

- Hillary's fire whistle article is done. She will submit in two weeks because graduation news will consume of the Independent next week. She has other article in the research stage. Marcia will check with Ellen McBride of the Conservation Commission about her offer to photocopy Whip Hill information gathered by the late Dan Towse. Ben Jacques produced an article about the Almshouse in mid December so that topic is off Hillary's list.

12. Ben Jacques email

- Ben asked for feedback on his 29 page document regarding the history of slavery in Stoneham as well as opportunities to publish a booklet. Susan suggested applying to the Cultural Council. 'Facing History and Ourselves' is a non-profit educational and professional development organization that may be a source of funding.

13. OBG restoration

- We received three responses to our Request for Quote. A spread sheet from the conservator of interest is in the packet. Once the contract is signed we will work with her to narrow the choice of stones that can be done for the available funds. We have not figured out clean water availability or suitable restroom facilities.
- Joan, Dolly and Marcia met on May 23 with Jim Previte and Larry Brophy to identify seven trees in the OBG that need to be removed by a professional tree company and two that can be removed by DPW. Jim will research the costs involved.

14. Post Card Project

- Mr. Bennett was humbled and excited by our Heritage Award presentation on May 23. His story made the front page of the Independent. A tentative meeting is schedule for June 19 at 6 pm to learn how the 200+ post cards should be documented for submission to NOBLE Digital Heritage collection.

15. Other

- Marcia agreed to contact Ellen McBride again about Whip Hill history.
- Marcia agreed to contact Tom Barry, Stoneham resident who owns a sign company in Woburn, about his original offer to help with Col. Gould's marker. Such a project may be tax deductible for his business.

Meeting ended at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary