

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 6, 2011 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of May 3 and May 25, 2011 were approved. Joan Quigley was present for the May 3 meeting.
- Joanne DiMambro presented her appointment papers.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Members approved the invoice for \$22.27 for coffee and cookies for the Stakeholder's Meeting. Left-over cups and non-perishable items are in Joanne's custody. The remainder of the half&half was donated to the Senior Center.
- Joan reported the following deductions from the previous balance of \$263.96: invoices for \$5.50 for Cambridge Deeds parking, \$22.27 for coffee and cookies, and \$55.00 earmarked for the Almshouse marker leaving a balance of \$181.91. The donation account has a balance of \$1,239.

3. Website

- The 2011 Heritage Award information has been added to the town web page.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- No new applications.
- The Almshouse marker will read *2nd Almshouse Designed by Amasa Farrier*. If there is enough space *Built by Orin Hersam* will be added.
- The research for 8 Highland Ave indicates that the house may have been built by Delbert W. Dennis and could date to 1889. Marcia needs to confirm local tax book and Ancestry.com research at the Registry of Deeds.
- The potential confusion of the Charles Gill house may have begun with the initial purchase of 7 acres of land by Gill, Woodward and 3 other men. More research is needed. Robert Columbus, owner of 86 Pleasant St contends his house is Charles Gill's not 76 Pleasant as posted.

5. Burial Ground

- The MPPF grants will be awarded on Wednesday June 8. Losers are notified on June 9.
- One of the tomb doors is slightly ajar but cannot be opened further because it is blocked by the asphalt sidewalk. Larry Brophy, Deputy DPW Director, attempted to open it in response to a question from Marcia regarding the whereabouts of keys to the tombs; i.e. for the MPPF grant application, would we need a locksmith?
- Steve asked that consideration be given to having the Old Burying Ground sign re-painted, hopefully before our October Open House. Marcia will follow-up with Larry Brophy.

- The S.A.R. flag holder for Jonathan Green was removed by Marcia after she found it bent and damaged by a lawnmower. It has been straightened by DPW along with the one from Major Wilson's grave and will be returned to the OBG.
 - Marcia will research the procedure to apply for a flat marker for Civil War veteran J. Parker Gould whose headstone in Lindenwood Cemetery has weathered almost beyond recognition.
6. Adaptive Reuse
- Margaret sent an e-mail to members on Saturday evening regarding a recent Stoneham Independent article about the North and East Schools.
 - Marcia noted that Bee Russo submitted a letter to the editors of the Independent and SUN of June 1 regarding the Stakeholder's Meeting.
 - Marcia queried Shelly MacNeill about the rumor that a faction of Beacon Street residents are interested in the demolition of East School to create parking for the users of the ball fields. No response has been received.
7. Books for Library
- Margaret presented two lists from the librarians at the Middle and High schools for books that would be of interest to their students. Members voted to have Margaret purchase the 7 books from Book Oasis plus one extra copy of *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America* for the Public Library. The purchase cannot exceed \$181.91
8. Open Forum
- There is no additional information about the Weiss Farm proposal to DEP. If the comment period should occur over the summer the members voted to have Steve and Marcia send a positive comment on behalf of the Historical Commission.
 - Marcia issued the schedule of Commission meetings beginning in September. Town Day is September 17.

The meeting ended at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary