

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 7, 2004 -- Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: David Armato, Rosemarie McDonald, Margaret O'Keefe, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard

Excused: Stephen Rotondi

Absent: Matthew Whooley

The meeting began at 7:09 PM with the minutes from the May 11, 2004 accepted as written. The Treasurer's Report, with a balance of \$163.89 was accepted. Outstanding expenses include \$3.00 for the Heritage Award Plaque engraving. Peggy reported that the Town Administrator has \$385 in his FY '05 budget for the Historical Commission and that amount will not change even if the override fails.

Handouts for the meeting: the agenda; a tentative meeting schedule for next year, a Fiscal Year End procedure memo from the Town Accountant, a May 25, 2004 letter from the Mass Historical Commission regarding the First Baptist Church proposed telecommunications project; two flyers advertising the Family Fun Day and Trolley Tales fundraiser for the Senior Center.

The following business was transacted:

1. Heritage Award Plaque: The engraving is done for 2004.
2. Trolley Tours: The narrated trolley tours of early Stoneham are scheduled for Sunday June 13th at 10am, 11am, 12 noon and 1 pm. With the financial help of the Stoneham Cultural Council and some generous donors, the Trolley is paid for, so that profits from ticket sales can go to the Senior Center maintenance fund.
3. Dr. Paicos project: Chris reported that he owns a new GPS unit that will produce very accurate readings and has a battery life of 14 hours. Dr. Paicos is identifying the locations of buildings in Haywardville. Chris will follow up with him in a few weeks to determine if he is ready to identify other locations in the Fells. Rosemarie suggested using the GPS in conjunction with oral history projects, especially to identify landmarks or buildings

- that have been razed. Marcia and Chris may attempt a pilot project over the summer to identify the coordinates of National Register listings in Stoneham.
4. Web Site: Chris reported that Brian Clapp, the Town's MIS Manager, is willing to host a web-site for the Historical Commission. If the web-site had its own domain name, Chris would be able to transfer it to another host if Brian experiences time constraints or budget cuts. The committee voted unanimously to pay \$49.95 to have www.stonehamhistoricalcommission.us as our domain name for ten years. Two other options were voted on, if this name is taken before Chris registers it. Chris has the template to follow and will use Microsoft's Front Page to create the site. Ideas for content should be e-mailed to Chris.
 5. Meeting schedule for 2004-5 term: The members agreed that the next meeting would be Thursday September 9, 2004 at the Senior Center. Two other meetings were tentatively changed and will be confirmed at the September meeting. They are Tuesday January 4, 2005 and Tuesday May 3, 2005. By September, Mary Todd should know what the Library's hours of operation will be and if our meeting schedule can be accommodated.
 6. New Ideas: postponed until all members are present.
 7. Open Forum: The members voted to offer the acid free boxes that were intended for the inventory of the Old Burying Ground to the Historical Society with the stipulation that they would be used for that project. The members voted to offer Mary Todd a magazine subscription or book related to history for the Junior Room. We will need an invoice quickly in order to get it paid before fiscal year end. The members voted to spend money on two boxes of envelopes for the Secretary.
 8. The members discussed buying a copy of Images of Stoneham for each the six school libraries, as there is money to do so. Next year we may want to visit the libraries to determine how extensive their collections of historical materials are.

The meeting ended at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary