

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

March 1, 2004 -- Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Peter Bracciotti, Steve Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard.

*Excused:* Rosemarie McDonald, Peggy O'Keefe, Betty Whelan

The meeting began at 7:34 PM with the minutes from the February 2, 2004 accepted as written. The Treasurer's Report, with a balance of \$209.45, was accepted.

Handouts for the meeting: the Agenda, a copy of the Feb 27 letter to EDI Consulting regarding the proposed telecommunications tower on the Dow Building, and a request for filing supplies

The following business was transacted:

1. Fire Station: Peter updated the members on the recent activities of the site committee including a review of the real estate appraisals, which seemed low. Cambridge Tire will not allow environmental test borings to be done on their property. Alternatively, they can be done on the perimeter and should be ready for their next meeting. Peter will review the HC motion regarding the preservation of the 1916 building with the site committee.
2. Stoneham Executive Center: Steve withdrew his letter to the Mass Historical Commission, noting that the "shipped had sailed".
3. EBI Consulting: A letter, written by the sub-committee and approved by Attorney Bill Solomon, was distributed to the members. It outlines the outstanding aesthetic and town code issues regarding AT&T's placement of a cell antenna on the Dow Building. It is unclear what will happen with the Cingular Wireless buyout of AT&T Wireless.
4. Dr. Paicos: Steve reported that with Spring upon us, Dr. Paicos is ready to begin his Middlesex Fells project. Chris Willard will call him about an available GPS unit.

5. New business: A motion was made and voted to spend up to \$30 on filing cabinet supplies to organize all the HC material turned over to the Secretary.
6. Open Forum: The members discussed the closing of Love's Furniture and the need for a historical marker recognizing the importance John Hill's Shoe Factory to Stoneham's history. Steve remembered a significant fact about his enterprise being the first or one of the first in which the entire shoe production process was completed under one roof.
7. In the interest of preserving the history of all Stoneham's houses, not just those on the National Register, Steve outlined a project to create an inventory of every house, including a brief history from the owners. The members talked about the mechanics including exporting the assessor's tax records to a web page and using the real estate tax bills as a vehicle for notification. Help for this project might come from the Scouts and we would probably need to apply for grant money.
8. The meeting ended at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary