

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 1, 2010 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of February 1, 2010 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$299.63 in the operating account and \$1,105 in the donation account.

3. Web Site

- Marcia reported that 3 new pages have been added to the website: a list of house markers, the 2009 Heritage Award winners and a request for nomination for the Heritage Award for 2010.
- Steve asked if a thumbnail of each marker could appear next to each name. Marcia will investigate.

4. Cell Towers

- No progress on the Metro/PCS cell antenna project on the Dow Block.
- EBI in Burlington sent a request dated February 8th for comment on the proposed project to replace 3 existing antennas and enclose them within a stealth chimney at 7 Stonehill Drive. The Caleb Wiley House at 125 North Street is not within sight of the project. Steve remembered the yellow house on the west side on Main Street that was reportedly a hospital, but it is not listed on either the State or National Registers.
- Marcia will write a "no objection" letter.

5. Historic House Marker Program

- Margaret reported 8 sign deliveries. Marcia reported 3 outstanding requests. 69 Washington Street is awaiting a decision and check from the owner who now lives in NH. 573 Main Street and 63 Elm Street need more work. The owner of 86 Pleasant St. has not responded to e-mail or a letter about 76 Pleasant St. being listed as the Charles Gill House.

6. Walking Tour Brochures

- Margaret reported that the Vocational School is looking for projects and would charge \$250 for 5,000 copies of the walking tour flyer. She applied to the Stoneham Bank for full funding. They meet in March. If the funding is approved, she will keep the kiosk stocked and make copies available at the Historical Society and the Public Library.
- Margaret reported that the Girl Scouts are editing a video about the Walking Tour at Stoneham Access TV.

7. MWRA Letter

- No additional information was received regarding the Mass Water Resources Authority project to construct a new underground concrete water storage facility within the previously disturbed area east of the former Boston Regional Medical Center hospital site.

8. Burial Ground

- Joan is continuing her research at the First Congregational Church on slave and Native American burials.
- Marcia reported preliminary discussions with the town Administrator about the use of perpetual care funds for preservation of the Old Burying Ground. David Ragucci wants to take a tour of the OBG when the weather improves. He might consider a compromise of hiring a professional stone conservator to supervise a team from DPW to work on the resetting, cleaning and repairing of headstones.
- Marcia will investigate grant funding.

9. Mass Memories Road Show

- Steve announced that the Public Library's grant was approved to sponsor a Road Show on a Saturday in October. Heather Cole from UMASS will offer an orientation program in the spring to explain the details of this state wide digital history project. The HC will need to send a representative to that meeting.

10. New Business

- Preservation Survey Grant
 - ~Steve submitted a letter as a private citizen in support of a grant that Mary Todd is seeking for a preservation survey to determine how the Library's fragile and important documents might be preserved. The deadline of the grant application did not allow for consultation with the Commission members.
- Demolition Notification
 - ~The proposed demolition of the circa 1900 two family house at 19-21 Montvale Ave was approved at the Selectmen's meeting of Feb 16. Marcia noted that both Reading and Wilmington have demolition notification bylaws that require the building inspector to notify the Historical Commission when a demolition permit is pulled. This provides time for the HC to determine if a building should have photos and/or measured drawings. Marcia will research how many permits are pulled annually.
 - ~ Joan noted that her search of census records did not find any important residents at this address.

The meeting ended at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary