

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 7, 2005 - Meeting Minutes
Public Library

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

Steve Rotondi called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports – Peg O'Keefe presented the FY 2006 budget given to Ron Florino, Town Administrator. He will notify us if our request for \$385 is cut from the budget. There is no Treasurer's report, as the balance of \$361.52 has not changed. Chris suggested that we consider creating a long-range plan for items that will require additional funding when the Town's financial position improves. The minutes for the February 7th meeting were accepted as amended by deleting the last sentence in item 5.
2. Old Business-Dr. Paicos' project – Dr. Paicos has been photographing sites with an MDC representative and plans to continue in the spring before the trees leaf out. He showed Steve pictures of Cheese Rock, covered by a dead tree, and Shute's marker.
3. Web site – Chris has done some work on our site at www.stonehamhistoricalcommission.us and is looking for more content to add including meeting schedules, minutes, heritage award recipients, etc. The site can accept e-mail and forward it to the secretary's home e-mail. The members felt that advertising historical real estate (the Padilla Beard House at 18 Maple Street is on the market and not selling) would be a conflict of interest and contrary to our mission. Posting a notice about houses scheduled for demolition would be appropriate. It was moved, seconded and approved to pay an annual web-hosting fee of \$48, rather than rely on the Town to host our site.
4. Rename Sam Miles Circle – The draft of the letter to Joe Casey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools was reviewed and several typos were identified and fixed. Chris noted that Mr. Leonardos, Principal of the South School, is supportive of the project. Steve will ask for the project to be put on the Selectmen's agenda. Assuming they approve the project, we need to plan the publicity.
5. Board vacancy – Steve was given a copy of Mat Whooley's resignation and he will confirm that the Board of Selectmen is aware of it. Peg O'Keefe has decided not to reapply for the Commission. Rosemarie is still considering her options. Marcia has not heard from the archivist at Suffolk University who lives in Stoneham and expressed interest in the Commission last September.

6. Tudor Barn – David presented a copy of the Friends of the Fells newsletter regarding the Barn. Marcia noted that Wendy Pearl would make a presentation before the Conservation Committee on March 15th.
7. Reference Library – the members agreed that Marcia could order any appropriate books that are free and voted to approve the expenditure of \$3.15 for Establishing Local Historic Districts and \$2.50 for Preservation Planning Manual: Local Historical Commissions – Their Role in Local Government.
8. Proposed Demolition Delay By-Law – Attorney Solomon was invited but did not arrive to discuss the by-law. Chris outlined the sequence of events leading up to the issuance of the demolition permit. Steve questioned if 6 months was too long.
9. New business – Demolition Permit – Stoneham’s demolition permit now has space on it for the Commission to sign acknowledging that the building has no historical significance. Steve signed for the demolition of Pacey’s burned out property at 166 William Street on or about Feb 15th. A letter will be drafted explaining the Building Inspector that until the delay by-law is passed, the Commission has no authority to sign the permit. We will ask for informal notification that a demo permit has been pulled so that we may assess the property for historical significance.
10. Preservation Month speaker - It was moved, seconded and approved to pay \$150 for Susan Lamm, reading specialist at the South School to present her one hour slide show about Mary Ann Hathaway Tripp (1810-1906). Mrs. Tripp was one of the first American women to travel around the world in a time when women rarely left their homes. Steve will confirm with Betty Whelan that the Historical Society will provide the location and supply the refreshments.
11. Heritage Award – the local papers will be notified that we are accepting nominations for our annual award. The due date will be March 30th, so that nominations can be discussed at the April meeting. Possible nominees include Dr. Paicos, Attorney Solomon and Maureen Welch/Nancy Smith.

The meeting ended at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary