

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 7, 2011 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

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

Guest: Donna Weiss

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of February 7, 2011 were approved. The meeting was held at the Public Library, not the Senior Center.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$350.51 in the operating account \$1,239 in the donation account.

3. Weiss Farm

- Donna Weiss explained the loss of her composting license and noted that the Town is not currently enforcing the 'cease & desist' order contrary to the January 31 article in the Stoneham Independent. On February 28, her attorney filed an application for a license to operate a smaller composting enterprise. We await the DEP open comment period to send a letter in support for this last operating farm in Stoneham. The days of local dairy farming are gone forever and Weiss Farm has adaptively reused the property to board horses, grow Christmas trees, and sell honey, compost and mulch.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- Steve explained the rejected request for house marker research as being too confusing. He reported that any information in Joanne Harriman's personal file about historic houses is in her *Images of America* book. A date has not been set for the April Research Saturday. If tax books need to be viewed before then, we can submit an application for that specific task.
- Marcia reported that Randall Gromestein, owner of 198 Franklin Street, has volunteered to search the Library's microfilm for the alleged article about Professor Queen having his house built in 'Franklinville'. The search dates range from 1892-1894. If that fails she plans to attend the SHS Research Day. Margaret reminded us that the 1893 tax book is missing from the SHS.
- There are no new applications for markers.

5. Website

- Marcia reported that the notice for the 2011 Heritage Award nominations is on the web page with a due date of April 1. She will notify the Independent and SUN.

6. Burial Ground

- A motion was supported unanimously to apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund for the development of a Preservation Master Plan for the OBG. Due date is March 25. Steve signed the required letter of support.
7. Adaptive Reuse of School Buildings
- A motion was supported unanimously to submit a letter of conditions to the Selectmen for the adaptive reuse of the North and East schools should they be no longer rented by SEEM Collaborative and released by the School Committee. Steve signed the letter that asks for all renovation work and new additions to comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
 - Marcia noted that last Monday the Wakefield Board of Selectmen approved the sale of their 1903 Franklin Elementary School for \$800,000 for the adaptive reuse as 20 condominiums. The article will go to Town Meeting in May and require a 2/3rds vote to pass.
8. Dow Block Telecommunication Antennas
- Marcia learned that the Zoning Board of Appeals is dissatisfied with the two Metro/PCS faux chimneys on Dow Block.
 - She presented recent photos of the existing and new chimneys and a copy of the Zoning Board's decision letter of May 5, 2009. HC members noted that none of the existing chimneys match; all members were in agreement that the faux chimneys are satisfactory. Marcia will attend the next Zoning Board meeting to learn why they are dissatisfied.
9. Open Forum
- Joan will follow-up with the Medford Historical Society regarding Medford's *Civil War Roundtable*. They are a knowledgeable group of Civil War buffs who might be willing to speak at the April HS meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary