

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 3, 2011 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

Excused: Paul Foley

Guest: Shelly MacNeill

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Adaptive Reuse of Old Public Buildings

- Shelly MacNeill, Chairperson of the School Committee and Beacon Street resident was recognized and spoke in favor of the Historical Commission's plan to adaptively reuse the North and East Elementary school buildings. Her neighbors and Ray Mooney, President of Little League, are interested in learning more about reuse. She encouraged the Commission to engage the community by offering a public meeting for all stakeholders, including but not limited to neighbors and elected/appointed officials.
- Questions which need research include: do the athletic fields at East School fall under the purview of protected open space under Article 97? Will the School Department need the athletic fields for swing space in the event of construction on High School land? What is the process for rezoning the buildings and land from an educational to a residential district?
- Steve will speak with Selectman Rotondi and Marcia will speak with Town Administrator Ragucci about a possible stakeholders meeting on Wednesday May 25.

2. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of April 4, 2011 were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a balance of \$263.96 after Marcia submits her invoice for Heritage Award expenses of \$36.65. It was determined to earmark \$55 for a marker for the 1852 Almshouse and \$11 for parking at the Cambridge Registry of Deeds. Margaret will research appropriate book purchases for the \$197 balance and report at the June meeting. The donation account has a balance of \$1,239.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- No new applications.
- The owners of 8 Gerry Street agreed to have their marker read *CA. 1856 Built by Orin Hersam Carpenter.*
- The owner of 198 Franklin agreed to have her marker read *1892 Built for Charles B. Melvin, Jr. Prestidigitator.*

5. Reorganization

- Joanne DiMambro and Joan Quigley were reappointed for 3 year terms. The officers for 2011-12 are Stephen Rotondi – Chairman, Margaret Warren – Vice Chairman, Joan Quigley – Treasurer, Marcia Wengen – Secretary. There is one vacant seat.

6. Heritage Award

- Steve reported that Maureen Saltzman is thrilled about this honor. The presentation is Tuesday May 10 at 7:01 pm. Margaret will notify Heather Cole, Director of the Mass Memories Road Show.

7. Burial Ground

- Marcia received an official notice from the Mass Historical Commission regarding the grant application that was submitted on March 24. They noted that a section was missing from the application but follow-up revealed that because this is a predevelopment project the information was not required.
- DPW received a response from the owners of the Gould Street automotive repair business noting that they would hire Cleveland Fence to fix the OBG fence damaged by their snow plows. Marcia noted that on last inspection the bent pipe was reconnected but the chain links were not attached to the pipe. She will follow up.
- Marcia reported that local resident Sheila Foley, who serves with the Lincoln Minuteman as a fifer, may be able to attend our Open House. There may one or more minutemen from North Reading interested also. The tentative date is Saturday October 29 from 2-4 p.m. weather permitting.

8. Web Site

- Permission was granted, but Marcia has not yet added the article "5 Ways Homeowners Can Help Save Historic Houses" by Marian Pierre-Louis of the Medway Historical Commission.
- Marcia added the adaptive reuse letter with conditions for the rehabilitation of the North and East schools to the web site.

9. Dow Block Telecommunication Antennas

- No new projects. Remove from agenda.

10. Open Forum

- There is no additional information about the Weiss Farm proposal to DEP.
- The joint meeting of the Commission and Society is schedule for Thursday May 12 in honor of Preservation Month.
- Marcia distributed a letter from Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director at the Mass Historical Commission. In the letter she asked for a technical correction to the National Register records related to the Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkways. Marcia noted that our 2009 letter to Ms. Friedberg asking for Elisha *Wright* Homestead to be correct to Elisha *Knight* homestead was never acted upon. Marcia will follow-up.

The meeting ended at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary