

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

May 8, 2012 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Senior Center

*Present:* Joanne DiMambro, Paul Foley, Tammy Ford, Joan Quigley, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen. *Excused:* Stephen Rotondi. *Guest:* Dolly Wilson

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

### 1. Dow Block/Verizon Wireless

- Attorney James Valeriani and Architectural Historian Kathryn Emmitt explained Verizon's revised plans:
    - for two A/C compressors on either side of the bulkhead rather than hung on the building.
    - three faux chimneys 2'x 4'x 10' on the roof (same height as metro/PCS but wider).
- ~For the ZBA meeting on May 31, Attorney Valeriani will have information about Verizon's business relationship with Atlantic Concealment in ME, the faux chimney manufacturer for metro/PCS.
- ~Attorney Valeriani is unwilling to renegotiate the lease with Copley Group that would add a faux chimney on the south east corner of the building to retain the symmetry of chimneys on the roof.
- ~A motion was made and voted 6-0 to review and respond to a summary letter from Kathryn Emmitt before the May 31<sup>st</sup> Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

### 2. Reorganization

- Paul Foley and Marcia Wengen were reappointed for 3 year terms. The officers for 2012-13 are Stephen Rotondi – Chairman, Margaret Warren – Vice Chairman, Joan Quigley – Treasurer, Marcia Wengen – Secretary.

### 3. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of April 2, 2012 were approved

### 4. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$385 minus \$106.49 in expenses leaving a balance of \$278.51 in the operating fund and \$1,254 in the donation account was approved.
- Expenses: \$25 research fee to NARA for J. Parker Gould, \$40 Heritage Award, \$10 fee to Historical Society for 3 Morrison Ave house marker, \$16.50 for parking/deed research, \$14.99 for OBG Open House poster.

### 5. Tidd Gateposts

- Marcia reported attending the April 25 Planning Board meeting at which the ca. 1860 Tidd Gateposts on Hancock Street were discussed as part of the soon-to-be demolished Cambridge Tire Company at 454 Main Street. The Board will issue a special permit for the new building and also request that owner Frank Saia preserve the gateposts and remove the graffiti.
- Marcia presented a draft of a sign explaining the historical significance of the Mr. Tidd' gateposts. The members agreed to hold the \$278 until the June meeting to give Marcia time to explore Mr. Saia's interest in such a sign on his property and determine if he would be willing to pay \$200 or more toward the purchase price.

## 6. Website

- Tammy reported on her newly designed web page at [www.stonehamhistoricalcommission.weebly.com](http://www.stonehamhistoricalcommission.weebly.com). It has a multimedia tab that currently holds the Middlesex Fells video created by Marina Memmo. Tammy plans to add the OBG video she will create this summer.
- Tammy will be meeting with Tom Cikatelli to consolidate her web page with the Historical Commission's web page on the Stoneham site.

## 7. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications.
- Joanne's brother-in-law is interested in making his own marker for his ca. 1887 house at 523 Main Street. The Commission applauds his interest but recommends that the marker be different from our design and cannot have "Stoneham Historical Commission" on it.
- A presentation of the 1852 Almshouse marker has been rescheduled to the Council of Aging volunteer luncheon at Bear Hill Country Club on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. Burial Ground

- Marcia reported that the Preservation Master Plan project is on schedule. She presented the stone conservators' summary of gravestones that need attention: a total of 102 with an estimated repair cost of \$54,000 to \$62,300.
- Margaret reported that Marion Towse continues to oppose the use of Perpetual Care funds for OBG work. She understands the need for the project but believes the town should allocate funds rather than taking money from PC. Marcia will research this issue.
- The Town Meeting Warrant identified \$75,000 transferred from the Perpetual Care Income Fund to: 1.) balance the FY '13 budget (\$65K) and 2.) Lindenwood embellishments under Capital Projects (\$10K).
- Marcia distributed flyers for a Walking Tour of Lindenwood Cemetery on Saturday May 19 at 2 pm sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The tour guide is Dee Morris, who also conducts events at Forest Hills and Mount Auburn Cemeteries.

## 9. Heritage Award

- The presentation is schedule for Tuesday May 22 at 7:01 pm in the Hearing Room at Town Hall.

## 10. Adaptive Reuse

- May 7, 2012 Town Meeting approved warrant articles for the transfer of the 1939 North School from the School Department to the Selectmen, the sale of North School building on 3+ acres of land to local developer Michael Collins and the rezoning of the school lot from single family homes to condominium units.
- Marcia noted that she is in agreement with Mr. Collins' recommendation to replicate the 1939 windows with Andersen's Architectural Series windows. The simulated divided lites are more like the original windows than windows with imbedded muntins. He plans to install a sample window in the Franklin School in Wakefield and anyone is welcome to look at it. Any photos of the front doors would be appreciated.
- A copy of the preliminary site plan for 195 Collincote Street was distributed.

### 11. Tremont Street

- No discussion about Patrick Cogan's house at 12 Tremont Street.

### 12. Old Business

- Mark Stevens criticism of the phrase 'established 1725'
  - Two members observed MA town/city line signs both of which used the word 'incorporated' rather than 'established'.

### 13. Open Forum

- Marcia distributed a military paper addressed to Dorothea L. Dix regarding six nurses serving during the Civil War at Finley U.S. General Hospital in Washington, DC. One of the nurses listed is Hannah S. Arnold, whom we know by her married name as Hannah Bray (on her gravestone in the OBG).
- Paul Foley questioned if the Historical Commission has oversight of Stoneham Oaks Par 3 golf course which is designated as open space and protected under Article 97 of the state constitution. It could be considered for a different use, provided another parcel of land of the same value is identified for recreational or conservation use and the chapter 97 restriction is lifted by a vote of state legislators and local citizens at Town Meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary