

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 8, 2007 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

Present: David Armato, Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen

Excused: Christopher Willard

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

1. Reorganization

Stephen Rotondi and David Armato were reappointed by the Selectmen for three year terms. Carol Nickerson decided not to reapply. Stephen spoke with Christopher before the meeting about his interest in moving up to Chairman or remaining as Vice Chairman. The officers for 07-08 are: Stephen Rotondi, Chairman, Christopher Willard, Vice Chairman, David Armato, Treasurer and Marcia Wengen, Secretary.

2. Meeting minutes

The minutes of the April 2, 2007 were accepted with two spelling corrections in item 6.

3. Treasurer's Report

David reported that there are no expenses against the \$385 for FY'07. Marcia presented an invoice for the Heritage Award Certificate for \$30. The Preservation Month speaker at our joint meeting will cost \$75. If the Town agrees that Marcia's photocopy expenses for Warrant Article #28 can be paid, the amount will be \$60+. These expenses would result in a balance of \$220. Joan volunteered to research preservation books that we could purchase for adults and children. Marcia will confirm that our budget for FY '08 is included for next year.

4. Web Site

No update in Chris' absence.

5. Fire Station/Warrant Article

The video made by Stephen and Marcia aired on Access TV April 20-22 and April 27-29. Stephen agreed to speak for the Commission at Town Meeting in favor of the preservation restriction on the Fire Station. Marcia expects that Stephen Born, Joe Rolli and David Ragucci will all speak in favor of the article.

6. Heritage Award

Stephen will present the award to Paulene "Bee" Russo at the May 15 Selectmen's meeting. He is first on their agenda.

7. Preservation Month

Dee Morris will speak on "Victorian Soda Fountains" at the May 17 joint meeting of the Historical Society and the Historical Commission.

8. MHC Meeting

Stephen will attend a consultation meeting regarding Langwood Commons on May 9 in Boston. Marcia will e-mail the URL for the DRC's Visioning seminar regarding the Fells, in case it is discussed.

9. Final Addresses

- Stephen read the research done by Joanne (Rev Osgood), Joan (Jonathan Green) and Marcia (Samuel Sprague). David will begin compiling them into a storyline. Although technically there is no time limit, Stephen is planning that our video should not exceed a half hour.
- Marcia referenced the comment in Wilton Bucknam's "Stoneham 200 Years Ago" about "a child of Jacob Howe who died at the age of 19 and was the first white person buried in the Old Burying Yard on Pleasant Street." The Town Clerk's office has no record of such a person. If Bucknam is correct, it would make Timothy Wright the earliest burial with a headstone.

10. Open Forum

- Joan would like to have a memory stone placed in the OBG recognizing the burials of slaves and Native Americans.
- Stephen noted that the 2006 Annual Report still references our \$1,000 donation account as a parking study. Marcia will address with the Town Accountant.
- David announced that the annual meeting of the Friends of the Fells will be on Thursday May 24 at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation by Wayne Peterson.
- Stephen noted that Kevin Barile, of Barile Funeral Home, made a presentation to the Historical Society regarding his family's interest in a tree planting project.
- Marcia handed out a meeting schedule for Sept 07-June 08. She also distributed a letter from Mass Historical Commission determining "no adverse effect" from DCR's plans to replace non-historic light poles on Fellsway West in Stoneham.
- Marcia announced that 41 stick flags with 13 stars will be purchased by the Memorial Day Committee for placement in the OBG. We are asked to remove them by Flag Day on June 14.

The meeting ended at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary