

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 11, 2004 -- Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Senior Center

Present: Rosemarie McDonald, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard, Matthew Whooley

Excused: Margaret O'Keefe, David Armato

The meeting began at 7:03 PM with the minutes from the April 5, 2004 accepted as written with a comment from Steve that the contamination at Main and Hancock Streets is minor and would likely be resolved with excavation of the building's foundation. The Treasurer's Report, with a balance of \$193.89 was accepted. Expected expenses include an estimated \$35 for the Heritage Award. The \$150.00 payment for the May 13th speaker will come from the Cultural Council grant, therefore, there will be money available for refreshments if necessary. Steve will ask Peggy to check on our FY '05 budget with the Town Administrator.

Handouts for the meeting: the agenda; two documents from Omnipoint Holdings (April 8 letter with April 6 e-mail attached and April 28 letter) the April 27th SHC letter to Omnipoint Holdings.

The following business was transacted:

1. Re-organization: The Commission members voted unanimously for the following: Steve Rotondi, Chair, Chris Willard, Vice Chair, Peggy O'Keefe, Treasurer, Marcia Wengen, Secretary
2. Proposed Cell Antenna on Dow Building: Steve reviewed the project and noted that there has been no additional communication beyond the March 30th letter from Mass Historical Commission indicating that there would be "no adverse effect" provided our three requirements are met.
3. Dr. Paicos Fells Project: Steve noted that Dr. Paicos was an early Historical Commission member and a life long resident of Stoneham and is interested in identifying historic areas located in the Fells, such as Cheese Rock. Chris Willard reported that no progress was made in April due to the inclement weather. Also, the Boy Scouts have not called him back. There is an opportunity to borrow a GPS unit from the Mass GIS

- department. Chris will call Dr. Paicos. Marcia will e-mail Bill Stokinger to find out his availability.
4. Heritage Award: No replies were received from the newspaper articles asking for nominations. Steve suggested we honor The Copley Group for their sensitive renovation of the Dow Block. The vote was unanimous. Steve will contact them about the presentation on May 18th at the next Selectmen's meeting.
 5. May Preservation Month. David Kruh will be speaking on Boston's West End at the May 13th joint meeting. Other local events include a presentation by the Friends of the Fells and the Winchester Historical Society about Frederick Law Olmstead. A possibility for next year's speaker is Susan Lamm, a special Ed teacher at South School who found a ladies hat box in the trash that led her to write a book about a Mrs. Tripp, who was one the first woman to sail around the world in the 1800's
 6. Term Expirations: The Selectmen reappointed Steve Rotondi and appointed David Armato and Matthew Whooley to the Commission until April 30, 2007.
 7. Open Forum: Chris Willard presented his research regarding a Historical Commission website. He provided pricing, available domain names, hosting options, site content and suggested links. He will contact Brian Clapp about a template so that our site has a look consistent with the town's web site. Financial support might include a local sponsor (one of the Stoneham Banks for example) and/or affiliate programs (a link to Amazon.com for example). Rosemarie and Chris discussed the merit of "Dreamweaver" vs. "Front Page" software as the vehicle to develop our website. Marcia will discuss two issues with Attorney Solomon: do we need permission from the Selectmen to move forward with this project and can we approach specific sponsors or should we use an open bid process?
 8. Time Change: The members agreed to change the start time of the monthly meetings to 7:00 PM.

The meeting ended at 8:48 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary