

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 12, 2003 -- Meeting Minutes prefer
Stop & Shop Conference Room

Present: Peter Bracciotti, Rosemarie McDonald, Peggy O'Keefe, Steve Rotondi, Bee Russo, Marcia Wengen and Betty Whelan

- 1) The meeting began at 7:29 PM with the distribution of the following documents: a.) minutes from the April 7, 2003 meeting, b.) draft of advertisement for the speaker at the joint meeting in June.
- 2) Jane Lavender, Senior Center Director, presented her ideas for an event on September 14th to raise money for operating expenses and capital projects that were cut in the FY 2004 budget. Committee members agreed to work on a script of Stoneham history that would be used for trolley tours given that day. A draft needs to be ready for August 1st. Marcia volunteered to coordinate the efforts of the Historical Society and Commission members.
- 3) The members discussed this year's recipient of the Heritage Award. Steve reminded the members that it is given to a person, business or organization for preserving the historical past of the town. Donna Weiss was the unanimous choice. Her c. 1750 homestead is on the State Register, she is an active member of the Historical Society and she is a generous citizen who funded two ballfields at the High School last year on land that once belonged to Weiss Farm. Rosemarie reported that Bee would arrange for the plaque. Rosemarie will notify the Selectmen.
- 4) The following officers were nominated and accepted the positions: Steve Rotondi, President, Betty Whelan, Vice President, Peggy O'Keefe, Treasurer and Marcia Wengen, Secretary. Marcia will prepare a list of new officers and a package of meeting minutes for the Town Clerk and the Selectmen. MHC will be notified.
- 5) Mr. Christopher Willard has been appointed the HC for 3 years.
- 6) Peggy reminded the members that receipts are required for reimbursement by the Town.
- 7) Marcia distributed the State Register Nomination form on the fire station from May 1979 indicating that the entire building, not just the hose drying tower, is on the State Register.
- 8) Peggy will check with the Dearth family to see if they are related to Hannah Carlyn (Dearth) Lewis, wife of C.I. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was a

noted philosopher and Harvard professor, born the Stoneham in 1883 on Congress Street.

- 9) The members discussed and approved the request by Dr. Peter Pacos to document various Stoneham landmarks, including Cheese Rock. Betty will contact him. Steve noted that his Rotary group might be willing to consider a request for historical markers.
- 10) Marcia reported that the Historic Parkways Guidelines are due out at the end of May. She noted that at the Public Hearing on April 30th, Mr. Houghton indicated that he had a two-page summary of the guidelines.
- 11) Marcia presented the Preservation Mass 2003 Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources Nomination Form and asked for support from the members to nominate the 1916 Fire Station. The members agreed that the timing was not appropriate given that the \$60,000 article was passed at Town Meeting to move forward with property appraisals, design specifications and cost estimates.
- 12) Marcia presented the third draft of a position paper on the Emergency Operations Center and requested that members come prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.
- 13) The members will review the packet of material on Historical House Plaques and be prepared to discuss how a similar program might be implemented in Stoneham. This project could potentially be unveiled at Town Day 2004.
- 14) Marcia briefly discussed the concept of “design ques” and handed out a pencil sketch of a generic Second Empire home with its significant details noted. The designers of the proposed Emergency Operations Center (EOC) could use these “design ques” to create a building that fits with the architecturally significant buildings in the neighborhood.
- 15) In response to a question from Peter, Marcia noted that Mary Marchant, Curator at the Historical Society, identified the two stone gates on Hancock Street as the last remaining vestige of Mr. William Tidd’s Second Empire estate that occupied the corner lot until 1931 when it was razed.
- 16) Rosemarie asked the members to present ideas at the next meeting for a table at Town Day or for the Sunday after Town Day

The meeting ended at 9:14 PM.

Submitted by,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary