

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 2, 2009 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Paul Foley, Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley Stephen Rotondi,
Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of October 5, 2009 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported \$385 in the operating account and \$18 in donations from the October 25 OBG open house for a total of \$1,105 in the donation account.

3. Fire Station

- Nothing to report; time to take this off the agenda.

4. Web Site

- The Town's web page now supports the Historical Commission site. Marcia spoke with Chris Willard; he forwarded the existing pages to the Town site. He noted that the more people access our Town web page, the higher it will appear on a Google request.
- Our schedule of meetings needs to be added to the web page.

5. Dow Building Cell Antenna

- Nothing to report.

6. Historic House Marker Program

- Seven markers are researched and, of these, 170 Franklin Street, Pine Street Credit Union/Train Depot and 96 Hancock are ready to be ordered. 72 Elm needs e-mail confirmation from the owner. Three need research in the HS tax books: 7 Ledge Street (formerly Maple Court), 4 Gerry Street and 11 Benton
- Five need more research: 63 Elm, 49 Bow, 40 Wright, 69 Washington St, 86 Pleasant St. The owner of 86 Pleasant Street thinks his house is the Charles Gill House but the National Register has it as 76 Pleasant St. The owner, Robert Columbus has not responded to e-mail or letter.
- Before tonight's meeting, Margaret, Joan and Marcia reviewed the research on 142 Pond Street. Dating the house is problematic because the 72.5 acres included a dwelling, barn and other buildings when Jesse Green sold it in 1840. Another approach may be to research 140 Pond to determine if the current owner's statement is true that the owners of #142 built #140. The Assessor's data base notes that #140 is older than #142.

7. Burial Ground Open House

- The OBG was open from 2-4 pm on the Sunday Oct 25. The weather was sunny and mild. 47 people visited the property. Denise Lawrence and Bob Shannon, our costumed interpreters, were present.
- We would consider opening the property in the late spring/early summer if there was a trigger event, like the police box/historical walk dedication, to bring people out
- Veteran's names appeared on a plaque in the OBG, but it did not survive the ravages of time and weather.

8. New Business

- Steve noted that the Historical Society is considering the use of Facebook to market itself in addition to the more traditional web page. He asked if the Commission should do the same. After lengthy discussion the members agreed to reconsider it after the web page was current and depending on the success of the Historical Society.
- Maureen Saltzman, Research Librarian, joined the meeting to discuss the Mass Memories Roadshow. She needs three sponsor letters for the grant to bring this state wide digital history project to Stoneham. If the funding for this UMass Boston project disappears, NOBLE may be able to provide the technical help to move forward with the project. Maureen plans to reach out to other Stoneham organizations if/when funding is in place so that more volunteers will be available. Steve signed a letter on behalf of the Commission to partner with the Library for this project.

The meeting ended at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary