

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

November 3, 2003 -- Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Present:* Rosemarie McDonald, Steve Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Betty Whelan, Christopher Willard.

*Excused:* Peter Bracciotti, Peggy O'Keefe

*Guest:* William Stokinger, Cultural Resource Specialist, representing the DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation)

The meeting began at 7:33 PM with the minutes from the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting being accepted as written. The following business was transacted:

1. Steve Rotondi explained that although Dr. Peter Paicos would not be able to participate in tonight's meeting as planned. He is seeking permission to identify locations of historical significance in the Middlesex Fells including but not limited to Haywardville and Cheese Rock.

Bill Stokinger anticipates that issuing a permit for the project and borrowing a 4-wheel drive vehicle to get to various sites will be no problem. Once the foliage is gone, the visibility in the Fells will be much improved. Steve will ask Dr. Paicos to contact Bill directly. Bill will also check to see what Geographic Information System (GIS) technology is available at DCR and brief Rene Morin, Fells Supervisor, about the project.

Bill brought a 32x48-silkscreen sign on marine plywood as an example of what can be done and gave us 5 printouts from the Web related to interpretive signage. The sign is 10 years old and cost \$250 at the time. He quoted \$1,500 for a fiberglass embedded sign. The DCR does have signage standards that he will get for us to review.

There may be material written about the Fells by Helen Kinsley and Joseph McAllister at the Historical Society that identifies other sites of significance. Before the 1903 Middlesex Fells map is returned to the Historical Society, Marcia Wengen will make a list of the locations designated on the map.

- Chris Willard will contact Brian Clapp, MIS Manager at Town Hall to see what GIS technology he has that we could use to accurately identify the points of interest.
2. Betty Whelan reported that Peggy O’Keefe is ill but wishes to report that there are no expenses incurred for October.
  3. Marcia Wengen reported that the Heritage Award plaque would be ready by the next meeting.
  4. Marcia Wengen reported that there was little interest by Town Meeting participants in the presentation board depicting adaptively re-used fire stations. Many of the voters were attracted to the exhibit for the condominium development to replace Spot Pond Motel (Warrant Article 8).
  5. Steve Rotondi presented the October 29<sup>th</sup> Stoneham Sun article with the artist’s rendering of a new, expanded fire station at the site of the current firehouse. Since the article is not clear about the status of the 1916 building (demolished and replaced or remaining and added to), it was decided to invite Capt. Joe Rolli to our next meeting. Marcia will contact him.
  6. The members discussed taking a public position that the 1916 fire station building should not be razed. The decision as to whether the Emergency Operations Center goes elsewhere or is created by adding on to the 1916 building is best left to the Study Committee and voted on at Town Meeting. Although a quorum was present, no vote was taken due to the absence of two members who did not participate in the discussion.
  7. Marcia Wengen will check to see if Joanne Harriman’s tapes include any history of the fire station.
  8. In Open Forum, Marcia Wengen handed out two articles for consideration at another meeting: “Historic Preservation Week Planning Guide” and an article from the Reading Advocate discussing the Historic Homestead designation offered by the Mass Historic Commission for properties that have been in the same family for 100 years.
  9. The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary