

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 5, 2007 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard *Excused:* David Armato
Guest: Margaret Warren, owner of the Padilla Beard House at 18 Maple Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

1. Meeting minutes

The minutes of the October 8 were amended to October 1 and accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report

In David's absence, Steve reported no expenses against our FY 2008 budget of \$385.

3. Membership

Margaret is awaiting a response from a letter she sent to Selectmen asking to join the Historical Commission. She expressed interest in researching and writing a monthly newspaper column.

4. Fire Station

A draft of the Revised Scope of Services from the architectural firm of Durland VanVoorhis in New Bedford was distributed. This changes their \$60,000 pre-development work to include helping the Town with the bid process and conducting six site visits to observe the progress of the work after a contractor is chosen. Deborah Durland has discussed these additions with Paul Holtz at MHC. Stoneham gives up computer generated drawings of the Fire Station. Marcia will research the preparation of the completion report. Paying Deborah for this report would use up some of the remaining \$140,000.

5. Old Burying Ground

- Joan confirmed that Zach Kline's Eagle Scout project to inventory/photograph the OBG cannot begin sooner than Nov 17 because of his after school track commitments
- The chain link fence was replaced on October 11. A bone was found. The correct protocol when remains are accidentally uncovered was not followed. On October 16, Stoneham Detective Paul Norton visited the site and found 3 more small bones. On October 17, Dr. Anne Marie Miers, a forensic anthropologist from the Medical Examiner's Office, visited the site with a State Trooper and determined the bones were from a deer. She photographed the evidence, declared the location to be a rubbish pile and took the bones with her.

- Marcia distributed copies of the Mass Historical Commission Bulletin #4 “What to Do When Human Burials is Accidentally Uncovered.”
- Marcia will check on the barriers that Mr. Mazolla promised to install.

6. Final Addresses Project

In David’s absence, there is no report on this project.

7. Web Page

Chris set up a free voice mail phone number that sends an e-mail. The message is accessible via the Web or by phone. The number is 781-850-3114.

8. Correspondence

Marcia distributed a letter dated October 9 from MHC to the Mass Highway Department requesting review of work done at the intersection of Rte 28 and South Street.

9. Other Business

- Marcia distributed a packet of six Historic House plaque programs ranging from \$50 to \$400. These cities and towns use this program to raise awareness about their historical environment and to encourage its preservation. How to research houses histories is an open question for us. Steve will discuss this project with the Historical Society before we develop guidelines.
- Joan discussed her visit to the Congregation Church to look at their papers from the early 1800’s to the 1950’s. She has been in touch with Beth Bower, the Church Historian and professional archivist, who has additional information about Reverend Osgood and slavery. This treasure trove will provide additional information for the OBG project. Joan noted that Simmons College students are available for 60 hours of document preservation work at no charge.
- Joan discussed the October 20 event at Woburn’s First Burial Ground that drew 500 people. We could consider a smaller version for our OBG video.
- A coloring book entitled “Historical House Styles of Charlestown” was presented as another tool to celebrate our historical assets. The Porter Art Group might be able to provide line drawings.

The meeting ended at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary