

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 2, 2015 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Dolly Wilson, Margaret Zoladkowski

Absent: Robert Shannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of October 5 were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported \$385 in the operating account, \$134.41 encumbered this past June and \$1,321 (addition of \$117 from OBG Open House) in the donation account.

3. Old Burying Ground Open House ~ Sat Oct 24

- 97 visitors; 3 tours @ approximately 45 minutes each with 7-8 people were well received.
- Consider opening at 1 pm and announce 3 tours on each quarter hour (1:15 pm; 2:15, 3:15).
- Joan will draft a bullet point script and make more copies of documents such as the broadside (suggestion from Lauren Murphy).
- Members discussed possibility of organizing a group of costumed interpreters for tours, parades, etc. to celebrate Stoneham history. Steve noted that a militia company had been approved by the town but never organized.

4. Stoneham Historical Walk

- Dolly continues to develop a web version of Stoneham Walking Tour utilizing www.wix.com. She is interested in expanding the coverage to include notable sites along Pine Street: the Train Depot, Round House/Turntable and Shawmut Car Factory.
- Steve distributed a map titled "Half Mile Heritage Trail Walking House Tour" of Central Street from Elm to Maple dated 1975.
- Dolly and Margaret will work on a sign honoring the Shawmut Motor Company to be placed in the Clara Steele Playground near Pine Street, pending Selectmen approval. Possible funding from Stoneham Ford.

5. Col. Gould Marker

- Margaret presented three drafts of Col. Gould's marker. Members chose one and she will edit based on suggestions.
- Marcia will discuss sign size and placement options with Larry Brophy at DPW.

6. Preservation Month

a) Birthday banners

- Dr. Olson gave Dolly the name of Nancy Dapkiewicz as Middle School Art teacher to help with the banner project. Dolly will also speak with Tara Lawler, who has connections with Colonial Park PTO, for her thoughts.
- Dolly will create a presentation for the next Selectmen's meeting (Nov 17) to explain the banner program.

b) Centennial Celebration of Fire Station

- An ad hoc committee, as a subset of the Stoneham Square Neighborhood Group, includes three firefighters, Tara Lawler and Marcia. First meeting is scheduled for Nov 9.

c) This Place Matters

- Dolly ordered a "This Place Matters" banner. Members discussed the need to get the word out, especially to kids, to participate in identifying a place that matters to them and sharing it on social media. Then the HC could spotlight our favorites during Preservation Month.

d) Other events

- Dolly's list of possible events includes an organ concert, walking tours or slide show for those with mobility problems, trolley tour perhaps on the Senior Center van.

7. Warrant Article

- Article 14 for \$30,200 to scrape and paint the Fire Station trim passed at Town Meeting on October 22. Municipalities must pay prevailing wage which will be over \$61/hour for a journeyman painter next spring.
8. Digitizing Maps
 - Maureen Saltzman has arranged to have Stoneham's historic maps scanned at the Boston Public Library early next year for the Digital Commonwealth project.
 9. Dow Block
 - EBI Consulting, on behalf of T-Mobile, has agreed to the following changes for the modification of their telecommunications of the Dow Building: reduction of proposed faux chimneys from three to two, reduction in height by three feet, removal of the existing cable tray from the north side of the building.
 - In a separate communication they agreed to move the GPS device away from the south edge of the building. It will remain uncovered, but should not be visible from the street.
 10. Historic House Markers
 - 18 Chestnut and 49 Lindenwood are done and at the sign company. 181 Central and 489 Main Street are being researched.
 11. 56/58 Summerhill St
 - Warrant Articles 5 and 6 passed at Town Meeting to will allow owner Barry Hamm to purchase the 231 sq ft of land from the town to finish construction on the circa 1866 'farmhouse' that now mimics the Second Empire style (1855-1885.) The original house was neither on the MACRIS inventory nor listed on the National Register
 12. House Bill 1493
 - The Registries of Deeds are scanning original documents dating back to the 1600's. Over the summer there was a rumor that these originals would be discarded which turned out not to be true. Representative Day's office amended House Bill 1493 to ensure that scanned copies are accurate facsimiles of original deeds.
 13. First Baptist Church handicap ramp
 - On July 12 Marcia received an email inquiry from an architect regarding the installation of a ramp on the north façade of the First Baptist Church. The door is probably not historic but accessibility standards require at least a 32" clear opening. The July 13 question to the architect about removing brick to widen the space was never answered. Marcia will make a site visit. Steve and Joan feel that retrofitting the door is not a problem since it will be minimally visible from Main Street.
 14. First Church 175th Anniversary
 - There is a new sign near the front door of the Church celebrating its history. The Covenant pictured on the sign is actually stitched. The Trustees are seeking funds to have the original Covenant preserved by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover.
 15. Other
 - Marcia was invited to a meeting on Sept 24 regarding solar panels on the sanctuary roof of First Church. She explained that the Church's National Register status does prevent this installation. Further solar panels would not prompt a delisting from the Register (email from Christopher Skelly dated Sept 15, 2015).
 - Marcia noted that the ca. 1865 Patrick Cogan House (STN.67) has been auctioned twice on-line. The most recent bidder won at \$233,000 (scheduled to pass papers on Dec 5). He has no interest in preserving the building but is willing to work with the Historical Commission to repurpose it in any way that makes sense.

The meeting ended at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary