

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 3, 2008 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joan Quigley, Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Meeting minutes

- The minutes of October 6, 2008 were accepted.

1. Treasurer's Report

- Joanne reported an addition of \$56 from the October 26 OBG Open House added to the Donation Account bringing the balance to \$1,056.
- The operating account has a balance of \$325.
- The members approved payment of a \$15 invoice for the OBG Open House sign.

2. Fire Station

- The grant for \$125,000 was decreased by \$93,750 in Governor Patrick's recent budget cuts. The balance of \$31,250 remains. The architect is pricing two skylight covers.
- The apparatus floor repair developed hairline cracks in all three bays resulting in minor water leaks to the basement. The cracks have been repaired and no longer leak.
- The installation of six new doors was completed on October 24. The three bay doors in the front need trim pieces, weather stripping and painting.

3. Web Site

- Chris is rebuilding our web site and will include a link to the Historical Commission's new URL.
- The House Plaque application can be downloaded.
- Chris will include a link to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mashs/landmarks.html> which is a comprehensive list of Stoneham's National Register listing. The listing does not identify those properties that have been demolished.

4. Historic Plaque Program

- Publicity – the poster and applications will be at the HS Harvest Supper on Nov 13; subsequently they will move to the Public Library. The members discussed a letter to current owners of National Register houses with Gamit Signs being asked to pay the postage, a Chamber of Commerce article, a notice included in the January census mailing, picture and article in the local papers of a plaque installation, publicity about this as a great holiday gift.

- Municipal Buildings – current buildings are problematic as the Town has no funding. Former buildings like the Emerson School, which is now a condominium, might be interested in purchasing a sign.
 - Current applicants – Donna Weiss provided minimal information about construction date and ownership of 170 Franklin Street. Stevens' History mentions Thomas Green as an early owner of Franklin Street property. Also, this property is listed on the National Register under Elisha Wright rather than Elisha Knight. More research is needed to correct this error.
5. Dow Building Cell Antenna
- No visible construction yet.
6. Final Address Project & OBG
- An estimated 40 people took the self-guided OBG tour on Sunday Oct 26. Based on a visitor comment, signs need to be more specific; i.e., there was confusion about Rev. Cleaveland and his second wife documented at the first wife's headstone.
 - Events for an expanded open house next year could include: history bingo, a walking tour, trivial pursuit, a guided tour of the OBG maybe with costumed interpreters. Town Day would be an appropriate venue to promote events; we need to think about a rain date.
 - A memorial stone in the OBG for slaves and Native Americans might be funded by a grant or by an affluent tribe with casino connections. Joan suggested additional research of the Congregation Church records to confirm slave and Native American burials.
 - Joan's friend Denise would be willing to video the Final Addresses project. She may be able to video the Stoneham England collage for use in the project.
7. New Business
- The Goldfarb's at 10 Bow Street have offered us a tour of their house that dates to the early 1700's. They have a deed dating to 1686 transferring land to Andrew Phillips and his wife.
 - The measured mile project continues. The HC may want to consider historical signage for existing and demolished buildings (the Underground Railroad house on Main Street) as well as locations like meeting house ridge at the intersection of Pleasant and Summer Streets.

The meeting ended at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary