

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 7, 2011 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Paul Foley, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen. *Guest:* Tammy Ford. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of September 6, 2011 were approved. There was no meeting in October.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported no invoices against the \$385 for FY '12. The donation account has a balance of \$1,239. Marcia turned in \$15 from the sale of three 200th anniversary watch fobs at Town Day.

3. Website

Marcia reported no changes. Tammy may be interested in creating a no/low cost web page that is easily maintained by anyone.

4. Historic House Marker Program

- In spite of the interest at Town Day, no new applications have been received.
- Margaret reported the June 10 order for 198 Franklin, 8 Gerry and the Almshouse has been carved but not painted. The owners of 8 Gerry St may drop out of the program because of the delays both in research and sign production. Steve reminded us that if they have their own sign created; it cannot include 'Stoneham Historical Commission'.

5. Burial Ground

- The OBG was not opened on October 29 due to inclement weather (rain, then snow) although there were people at the gate at 2 P.M. A cancellation sign would have been helpful. Margaret noted that the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a trick or treat event downtown during the same hours, 2-4 pm. For next year, we should consider combining the events.
- Several tree limbs were on the ground and sidewalk in the northeast corner of the OBG from the Halloween weekend snowstorm. From the street, it appears that no damage was done to any gravestones.
- The OBG Request for Proposals for the preparation of a Preservation Master Plan will be posted on the town web page by 10 am on Wednesday Nov 9th. Notices will be posted in the Independent and in the Goods & Services listing at www.mass.gov/sec web page. Key dates are: briefing/walkthrough on Thurs. Nov 17 at 10:30 am and proposal due date Tuesday December 6 at 10 am. The grant ends on June 30, 2012. A warrant article is being drafted to ask the February Town Meeting to up to release up to \$40K from the Cemetery Perpetual Care-Income Trust Fund. \$20K will be reimbursed to the fund upon successful completion of the project.
- David Ragucci suggested that the SHC have the OBG sign repainted using funds from the required donation to the SHC from the sale North School. Given that

sale did not occur, Marcia will make another request. A suggestion was made to approach the vocation school students about making a new sign.

- Marcia was unable to find information for a flat, in-ground marker for Civil War veteran J. Parker Gould whose headstone in Lindenwood Cemetery has weathered almost beyond recognition. Civil War veterans are eligible for upright markers that require special research at/from NARA. Joan and Marcia will consider a trip to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Waltham. Steve may be able to learn more from Mr. Barile at Rotary.

6. Adaptive Reuse

- Marcia noted that the East School warrant articles for the sale and rezoning of East School passed at the October 13 town meeting. Beacon Realty, LLP signed a Purchase & Sale agreement on that date and their due diligence has determined no soil contamination from the underground oil tank. The expected closing date is December 9.
- The Gralia Group proposal to demolish North School and build a 90 unit assisted living residential complex ('The Arbors') was dismissed by the Board of Selectmen on September 20 because of neighborhood opposition to the density. An abutter, Mark Drew, is spearheading a neighborhood group to determine what development is acceptable to the neighbors. A public meeting is scheduled for Tues Nov 8 at 6:30 p.m. Jeff Rhuda, development expert from Symes Associates, will discuss why his company did not make a proposal for a ten house subdivision.

7. New Business

- Steve Rotondi received two letters from the Ottery Group in Silver Spring, MD regarding AT&T Mobility's modifications of telecommunications facilities at 7 Stonehill Drive (10/17/11) and 5 Woodland Road South (10/25/11). Neither of these undertakings have an adverse effect on the Caleb Willey house, the John Bottume house or the Tudor ice house under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Marcia will send the appropriate letters.

8. Open Forum

- On behalf of the Historical Commission, Steve and Marcia submitted an e-mail on September 21 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in support of Weiss Farm's request for a reduced composting operation. Donna notified Steve and Marcia on October 21 that the DEP decided to suspend the decision on her application for composting "...due to the pending litigation involving the farm and [Mr.] Wantman and the town."
- Tammy Ford noted that she has lots of ideas about how we might promote the Historical Commission and she will develop a proposal for our next meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary