

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

October 6, 2003 -- Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Peter Bracciotti, Rosemarie McDonald, Peggy O'Keefe, Steve Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, and Christopher Willard.

Guest: Richard Watts, Vice President, Stoneham Historical Society

The meeting began at 7:33 PM with the minutes from the September 8th meeting being accepted as written. The following business was transacted:

1. Peggy O'Keefe gave the Treasurer's report, indicating that we have spent \$53.55 to date. This leaves a balance of \$331.45. Marcia Wengen does not have her cancelled check yet for the Preservation Conference (\$40).
2. Marcia Wengen reported on a successful Town Day. The HC display of an 1878 map of Stoneham, the pictures of adaptively reused firestations and the scale model of the First Congregational Church generated much interest. Approximately 28 people signed up to be notified when the trolley tour is rescheduled. One person took handouts on various preservation topics.
3. After reviewing the options for the Heritage Award plaque, the members voted to spend \$82 to add a 16"x22" board to the existing plaque with 2 rows of nameplates on each side. No decision was reached regarding the suggestion to hang the plaque in the Town Hall.
4. Steve Rotondi reported that Dr. Peter Paicos is planning to attend the November meeting discuss his interest in a project to identify historically significant landmarks in the Middlesex Fells. Chris Willard suggested inviting a representative from the Scouts. Dick Watts suggested inviting the owner of local the mountain bike website.
5. Fire Chief Lawrence Lamey spoke at length regarding the shortcomings of the existing 17,000 sq. ft fire station built in 1916, the needs assessment recommending a 27,000 sq. ft Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the study committee's search for a suitable location, environmental testing of the Hancock St site and appraisals of properties on Hancock and

Emerson Streets, funding mechanisms (increased tax revenues, a bond issue, but not Homeland Security in its current form), and the need for Town Meeting approval.

He answered questions about the Hancock Street location including the concerns about response time and gridlock given that it is 1400' south of the current station. The 27,000 sq. ft. EOC would occupy 45% of the 60,165 sq. ft. lot and provide room for growth over the next 50-100 years.

The costs to build on the current site include destruction of 90% of the 1916 building, at least \$1 million to make the tower seismically stable (if it is retained) and an estimated \$800,000 to replace parking spaces taken for the new building. Chief Lamey believes this is a Band-Aid approach and will not allow the full EOC program to be implemented. The study committee has discussed the adaptive re-use of the 1916 building.

Steve Rotondi and Chris Willard supported the idea of preserving and creatively reusing the 1916 building with the caveat that the HC would not offer an opinion on the location of the new EOC.

6. The members approved the draft of the Local Cultural Council grant for a Preservation Month speaker with the following changes: remove two of the speakers (MassQuilts and Lynne Wilkerson) and reduce the request from \$285 to \$200 (\$150 for the speaker and \$50 for advertising).
7. The meeting ended at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary