

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

October 6, 2004 - Meeting Minutes
Public Library

Present: David Armato, Rosemarie McDonald, Marcia Wengen, Matthew Whooley, Christopher Willard

Excused: Margaret O'Keefe, Stephen Rotondi

Mr. Willard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve (with Mr. Whooley abstaining) the minutes of September 9, 2004 and the Treasurer's report showing a balance \$380.46 as of Oct. 6, 2004.
2. Book Donation: Postponed until November 1st meeting. Both Mary Todd and Theresa Maturevich expect to be present.
3. Dr. Paicos' project: No progress. Chris will follow up with him.
4. Web site: Chris will follow up with Tom Cicutelli regarding the template for the web page. Chris found a hosting site for \$4 a month, if the Town is not able to host the site. The Town web site is <http://www.ci.stoneham.ma.us>.
5. Love's Furniture Building: The Commission's letter to Mr. Cunningham is in draft copy. At the Public Hearing on Sept 24, the Selectmen voted to approve Mr. Cunningham's project of mixed-use residential/retail space. The Planning Board Chairman announced that he is waiting for two items and then expects to write a letter of approval.
6. 357 William Street: Bob Servais, an inspector of antique homes from Mansfield, visited the site with the HC subcommittee and Mr. Santullo on Saturday September 18th. He found both the foundation and the first floor to be structurally sound, contrary to Mr. Santullo's opinion. He explained the discrepancy in the second floor and attic levels by the addition of another building on the front of what was smaller house. He thought that an investment \$150,000 and lots of sweat equity would restore this building to its former glory. While it is unique to Stoneham, he does not consider it "special" building and thinks it unlikely that anyone will step forward to relocate it. He verbalized a list of architectural features that a salvager could be interested in removing from the building.

On Monday Oct 4, Mr. Santullo was granted a permit by the building inspector for the foundation on Lot 1. Now that he has this permit, Mr. Santullo is again willing to let the HC into the building to take measurements and have a salvager look at the property. Mr. Willard suggested asking Mr. Santullo to

work with us to erect a plaque describing the historical significance of the property. Mr. Willard also suggested that the HC run an article in the paper to see if anyone might be interested in moving the building, provided Mr. Santullo is in agreement.

7. Sam Miles Circle: A copy of the history of 357 William Street recently completed by Mary Marchant, Curator at the Historical Society, was distributed to the members. They agreed to read the document and consider a more appropriate name for the new road that would properly reflect the historical significance of the property.
8. 39 Elm Street: The ca. 1776 house built by Thomas Fosdick and relocated to 39 Elm Street is in Stoneham's inventory but not on the National Register. It is now owned by Alan Melkonian, President of Stoneham Ford. At a public hearing before the Conservation Commission on September 22, 2004, Mr. Melkonian indicated that the property had been "remodeled to death" and there was nothing worth saving. He agreed to allow the Historical Commission to have access to the building and supported Mr. Conway's decision to give the HC salvage rights to the building.

Interior pictures and measurements have been taken. Dan Shields, a salvager from Spencer recommended by the Danvers Historical Commission, visited the site on September 30 and is interested in the frame of the building including the purlin roof which he says was a popular style in the 1770's. Negotiations through Mr. Melkonian's administrative assistant have been unsuccessful to date. Our hope is that Mr. Melkonian will pay for the asbestos removal and provide (2) 30-yard dumpsters. The demolition permit has not yet been filed with the Town. Mr. Willard recommended that the HC send a letter to Mr. Melkonian explaining the situation and asking for his financial support.

9. OBG fence: Mr. Mazzola is in the process of securing bids for a stockade fence to be on his property line that faces the Old Burying Ground. Installation is expected before Thanksgiving. It is unclear if he plans to remove the bent and broken chain link fence that is hanging over the OBG. Both Mr. Grover and Mr. Arigiuro have viewed the site. No permit is required from the Town. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has no jurisdiction over the project unless human remains are uncovered (see Know How #4 handout).
10. Educational Session: The members are interested in having an educational session with Elsa Fitzgerald of PreservatiON Mass regarding historic preservation tax credits and façade conservation easements. She will be invited to the November 1st meeting. There is no charge for her presentation.

11. Donation Account: Mr. Santullo expressed interest in making a donation to the Historical Commission if he receives money for salvaged material from 357 William Street. MGL Chapter 40, Sect 8D states that the HC “ may accept gifts, contributions and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations...for the purpose of furthering the commission’s programs...”. The members preferred to look into setting up an account with the Town rather than with the Historical Society.

12. Open Forum: Mr. Willard outlined the significant points of a demolition delay by-law that would provide the HC with a 2 month window in which to investigate alternatives with historic property owners. The HC also needs access to names of owners who pull demo permits from the Building Inspector’s office.

The meeting ended at 8:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary