

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

October 11, 2017 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Town Hall

Present: Hillary Fotino, Joan Quigley, Marcia Wengen, Dolly Wilson

Absent: Susan Larson, Resigned: Margaret Zoladkowski

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

1. Resignation

- Margaret sent an email to Marcia on Sept 27 noting that she moved to Somerville 2 weeks ago. Marcia asked regretfully that she send her resignation to the Board of selectmen as non-Stoneham residents cannot serve on board and commissions.

2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of June 5 were approved.

• Treasurer's Report

- 3. Balance in operating account is \$985.00 (\$385+\$600). Treasurer Quigley spoke with Town Accountant and they agree that our Donation Account balance is \$2,173.04.

4. Old Burying Ground

- Due to the gravestone conservation project and the need to keep citizens safe, the OBG will not be open for the Halloween Stroll on Oct 28. A temporary sign will be erected on that day.
- Hillary discussed a "History Goes Bump" podcast celebrating all things spooky. She will send a picture of Jacob Gould's gravestone ('who was barbarously murdered...') to their Halloween contest.
- Dolly needs another copy of the contents of the 2012 flash drive

5. Chamber of Commerce – Stoneham 101

- The Chamber is sponsoring a two hour event for new residents on Saturday Oct 21. The HC is pleased to participate as long as there is not a \$50 charge.

6. Post Cards

- Marcia will reassemble Mr. Bennett's postcards and return them to him. Although we don't have a scan of his several trifolds, we have plenty to catalog and submit to Noblenet.org. Joan is the only member to finish documenting her section of cards over the summer. Bravo Joan.

7. Kid's Table

- Hillary's video board failed over the summer. No progress on the Match 2 game (34 cards/18 pairs) using 'then and now' photos of Stoneham buildings.

8. Town Hall Organ update

- Due to Susan's absence there is no update on the restoration work done over the summer to the Mighty Wurlitzer.

9. Shawmut Car Company signage

- Dolly will work on text for a sign on the site of the Shawmut Car Factory. Although we have funding, she is interested in approaching Attorney Houghton, as attorney for the Stoneham Ford Company to pay for the sign.

10. Hillary Articles

- Hillary's fire whistle article is completed but not submitted. She is interested in interviewing Marty Murphy when/if the Montvale Plaza is sold and subsequently demolished. Marcia will check with Nicole about the Public Library project to digitize the Stoneham Independent. It may lead to easy access to the history of Montvale Plaza.

11. Col. Gould Marker

- Marcia requested Margaret to provide us with a copy of her work on Colonel Gould's marker. She has not replied. Dolly may have a good copy. Marcia will contact Tom Barry about producing the sign.
- Location of the marker can be near the Lindenwood map sign but Marcia noted that the map is badly torn and needs replacement.

12. Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

- Dolly noted that there has been no progress by Congresswoman Clark's office regarding the addition of Stoneham and Winchester to this federally designated area.

13. Other

- Dolly explained her interest in an electronic smart phone application ("app") that would update and expand the 8 year old self guided tour originally developed for paper with the Historical Society. Such a 'tour' could include video files, additional imagery, user feedback, interactivity and a GPS interface to help bring history alive. She plans to submit a Cultural Council application before the due date of Oct 15. Winning this grant would leave the Commission with funding an estimate \$350 annual maintenance fee. She is also considering an application to the Stoneham Business and Community Foundation (SBCEF).

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary