

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 9, 2004 - Meeting Minutes
Senior Center

Present: David Armato, Rosemarie McDonald, Margaret O'Keefe, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard

Absent: Matthew Whooley

Mr. Rotondi called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of June 7th, August 11 and September 8, 2004 and the Treasurer's report showing a balance \$46.25 as of June 30, 2004.
2. 357 William Street: Based on yesterday's conversation, it appears that Mr. Santullo wants the house demolished or removed from the property. It seems that he is not interested in tax credits. Steve will contact Town Counsel to determine if we got the 30-day window that we requested.
3. Appraisal: Bee Russo is still trying to reach Rick Johnson. If he is not available, the members agreed that we could approach a professional home inspector who specializes in historical homes, but only if he will do the work pro bono. Given that Mr. Symmes no longer lives in Stoneham and Mr. Cunningham is extensively involved with the Love's Furniture building, the members decided against asking them to view and comment on the property.
4. Real Estate opinion: The Senior VP at Coldwell Banker indicated that if the house was moved to lot 3 and was in pristine condition, it could sell for \$900,000. Stoneham has just broken the \$700,000 mark.
5. Dismantle options: Stephen Mack of Ashaway, RI specializes in documenting and dismantling historic buildings. He stores them until a buyer comes along. Before he could comment on 357 William Street, he would need detailed photos of the interior showing the walls, floor, windows, etc, "as if he was there". He would also expect to get the house for free. Chris and Marcia would be willing to do the documentation, but it has to be done in daylight and on a weekend. Mr. Mack stated that this house would have to be "very special" in order for him to stop work on a current project.
6. Salvage options: The owner of an architectural salvage firm in Amesbury would be willing to visit the house on short notice. There is a salvage firm in Spencer whose web page claims that they do both salvage and dismantling work. The owner has a message to call Marcia.
7. Dr. Paicos' project: No progress. Chris will follow up with him.

8. Love's Furniture Building: The Commission will send a letter to Mr. Cunningham thanking him for his sensitive plan to renovate the Love's building and offering to work with him on a plaque celebrating the history of the John Hill's Shoe Factory.
9. Book Donation: The Commission will present three books for the Junior Room to Mary Todd and Theresa Maturevich at next month's meeting.
10. Web site: Chris does not have the template for our web page and Brian Clapp's position is vacant. Chris found a hosting site for \$4 a month, if the Town is not able to host the site.
11. Meeting schedule: The schedule is set through June. All meetings will be on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM except for the May meeting, which will be Tuesday May 3. Marcia will confirm location with the Library.
12. Find-a-grave.com: Steve discussed this web site which includes the three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from Stoneham and the two people he added, the Rev James Osgood, first minister of Stoneham and Captain Samuel Sprague, leader of the Stoneham militiamen who answered the call to arms at Lexington and Concord. There may be an opportunity to expand this project.
13. OBG fence replacement: Mr. Stephen Mazzola is interested in replacing the broken chain link fence that separates his auto body shop from the cemetery. Marcia is working with him to facilitate this generous offer.
14. Town Day: The Historical Commission will once again have a presence at Town Day. Marcia is creating a storyboard of "Then and Now" photos of Stoneham landmarks. It will include John Hill's Shoe Factory, with permission from Mr. Cunningham.
15. Attendance: Mat Whooley missed the June 7 meeting and his e-mail comes back undeliverable. Marcia will send tonight's paperwork to him so that he is aware of the October meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary