

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

September 10, 2012 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

*Presen:* Paul Foley, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.  
*Excused:* Joanne DiMambro, Tammy Ford *Guests:* John Warren, Shelly MacNeill

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- Meeting minutes of June 4, 2012 were approved

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report of \$385 in the operating fund and \$1,454 in the donation account was approved. Frank Saia donated \$200 toward the Tidd Gateposts sign. \$270.51 remains encumbered from FY '12 for the sign.

### 3. Community Preservation Act (CPA)

- John Warren discussed the CPA which would allow Stoneham to create a dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing and outdoor recreation projects. Property owners pay a surcharge that is matched by the State. If Stoneham votes for a 1% fee, \$40 per year would be added to a tax bill of \$4,000. Currently the match is 40% which adds \$16 to the fund. A new amendment to the Act provides for a State match on local funds that are added such as free cash, mitigation fees or stabilization transfers.
- John will research two questions: can the money be used to purchase historic artifacts (possibly Stoneham's 1891 Amoskeag Fire Engine) and will the Historical Society be allowed to access money in Stoneham's fund?

### 4. Web Site

- No report.

### 5. Historic House Marker Program

- There are no new applications. Margaret is working with Ken at Gamit signs on four markers: 49 Perkins, 13A Hersam, 3 Morrison Ave, 91 Marble.
- Marcia reported that Maureen Canova stated that Jason Lewis has been unable to substantiate the 1852 Almshouse as the oldest Massachusetts (or second oldest) building in continuous operation for its original purpose.

### 6. Burial Ground

- The OBG Preservation Master Plan project is complete. Marcia distributed an executive summary detailing the eleven recommended projects costing \$247,000 to \$267,100.
- Because five of the seven 'priority 1' headstones have been identified as 'hazardous' the Town Administrator is requiring that we identify those stones with yellow caution tape for our October Open House.
- \$38,000 in interest was added to the Town's Perpetual Care Interest Fund on July 1st bringing the total to \$89,000. This is not a funding source for the Plan given that it is annually accessed for \$65-\$75,000 for 'Lindenwood embellishments'.
- The Town Administrator and the Capital Equipment Committee view the gravestone repair as on-going maintenance rather than capital improvement.
- Marcia will work with Dan Dragani at DPW to get cost estimates for eighteen gravestones (seven 'priority 1' and eleven out-of-ground). If the winter is mild, the Town Administrator may be able to 'find' money in the DPW budget for an estimated

\$6,500 - \$10,000. This small amount of money does not require a formal RFP, just three bids.

- In Tammy's absence there is no report on the OBG video 'Final Addresses'.

#### 7. Cell Tower

- No visible progress on the Verizon installation of three faux chimneys on Dow Block.
- The members agreed to send a 'no adverse affect' letter on the MetroPCS NE request to add dish antennas on the existing telecommunications facility atop the building at 7 Stonehill Drive.

#### 8. Tidd Gates

- Steve will check on the status of the August 12<sup>th</sup> request to the Historical Society for scans of Mr. Tidd and his mansion on Main Street for the historical marker.
- Members voted unanimously to release \$200 from the Donation Account as partial payment for the Tidd marker. The balance will come from the encumbered money. Funding of the scans (at least \$60) will come from the \$385 operating budget.
- The Cambridge Tire Building at 454 Main Street has not been demolished yet.

#### 9. Woodland Road Improvements

- Marcia distributed a Sept 6 letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) opposing DCR's proposed pedestrian and roadway improvements along Woodland Road. They state that the project is located within the Middlesex Fells Reservation Parkways District which was listed on the National and State Registers in January 2003 and "will result in adverse effects" to the District.
- Given MHC's opposition to the project, members agreed not to respond to the BETA GROUP letter of August 3.
- Marcia will write a letter replying to the MHC invitation to participate in the consultation they requested with DCR per 950 CMR 71.07(3).

#### 10. Adaptive Reuse

- The members voted unanimously to recommend installation of three vents for gas fireplaces in the 1938 East School that involves penetration of the north, east, and south walls of the building. A letter will be sent to the Town Administrator to waive section 4 of the Building Preservation Guideline in the Restrictive Covenant between Stoneham and Beacon Street, LLC.
- The sale of North School has been delayed because the legal notification to surrounding towns was not timely. At the request of the Attorney General's office (AGO) a legal ad will be placed in the Independent on September 12. If no complaints are received in 21 days, it's possible the AGO will approve the zoning change in early October and the sale can move forward. Plan B provides for the warrant article to be re-voted at the October 1 Town Meeting.

#### 11. Open Forum

- Required Conflict of Interest test: Paul Foley submitted his printout. Stephen Rotondi took the test but could not print his receipt. Tammy Ford was absent.
- The next meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday October 2 due to the conflict with Town Meeting.
- Members will meet at 9:15 A.M. on Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> to set up for Town Day.
- The meeting ended at 8:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary