

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

January 3, 2005 - Meeting Minutes
Public Library

Present: Margaret O'Keefe, Stephen Rotondi, Marcia Wengen, Christopher Willard

Excused: David Armato

Absent: Rosemarie McDonald, Matthew Whooley

Mr. Rotondi called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The following business was transacted:

1. Reports: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of December 6, 2004. Mrs. O'Keefe presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance \$361.52. She will update our 2004 budget and submit it to the Town Administrator next week.
2. Old Business – Dr. Paicos' Project. Neither Chris nor Steve has any new information on Dr. Paicos' project. He seems to be concentrating on Haywardville rather than on the entire Fells as we originally understood.
3. Web Site – Chris will contact Mr. Cicatelli this month regarding the standard template and the Town's interest/ability to host our web site. Chris did register our domain name.
4. Love's Furniture Building - Letter to Joe Cunningham was read and the section will be reworded regarding a historical plaque for the building so that it is clear the Commission is not offering to pay for it.
5. Fosdick House – Dan Shields, owner of 18th and 19th Recycling, has removed the aluminum siding and stripped the inside of the house back to the frame. There is no demolition permit yet from the Building Inspector. Dan is expecting to show the gutted house to a potential buyer who may be interested in the 1776 frame with its gunstock posts and purlin roof.
6. Donation Account – Steve requested that Peg retain the paperwork from the Town regarding the Donation Account. No decision was made regarding projects that the money might be used for. Peg recommended that we wait to see if our annual operating budget is approved.
7. Newspaper Article on 357 William Street teardown: Joe Haggerty has agreed to run the article in serial installments. The members were given a new draft edited by Danielle Masterson and asked to review it by Wednesday evening and notify Marcia of any changes. If Joe Haggerty has no objection, Marcia will approach the Stoneham Sun about running the article also. Since this article is being contributed by the Commission rather than an author who

expects to be paid for the submission, it can run in more than one paper (similar to articles by Casey, Tisei and the Senior Center).

8. Article on Preservation Tools: Danielle, who is now working as a freelance writer, is willing to contact the editor of the Globe's Northwest section to "pitch" a story about the Commission's investigation of various preservation tools, including a proposed demolition delay by-law. Both Steve and Chris are willing to be interviewed by Danielle should the Globe express interest in printing the story. Marcia will contact her.
9. Sam Miles Circle – Steve will contact Bee Russo of the Historical Society to determine the level of interest in having the elementary school classes vote on an appropriate name. Chris will contact representatives at the elementary schools to discuss the feasibility. A tentative date might be the Friday before February vacation. Marcia will draft a letter to the Fire, Police, Public Works and Mr. Santullo explaining our interest in renaming the Circle and asking for their cooperation before we approach the Selectmen, tentatively on January 25th.
10. National Register Listings – Based on research to date, Marcia noted that the MACRIS database does not match the paper copy of Stoneham's 1979 inventory of houses. Chris suggested that updating the lists by accessing public records and taking photographs of current buildings might be a good project for Scouts working on Eagle Scout Merit Badges or Gold Awards. Marcia noted that there are no properties listed beyond 1950 or 55 and that Betsy Friedberg of the Mass Historic Commission has encouraged local commissions to begin documenting post WWII construction.
11. Reference Library – Our library now consists of 6 books/reports. Peg recommended that we wait until the members pick additional texts from the MHC and National Park Service lists before approaching Mary Todd about storing them. We will need to decide if they are to be catalogued or just listed with the Reference Librarian, if they will circulate, where they will be stored, if they should have an electronic tag, if we include an information label about how to order the book/report, etc.
12. New business – Letter to MHC: The draft of a letter regarding the demolition of 357 William Street was reviewed and Marcia will add a statement about the \$1000 donation before Steve signs it.
13. New Business – Annual Report: Steve will prepare a statement for the 2004 Town Report describing our activities and accomplishments during the year.
14. Open Forum – Chris presented a draft of a demolition delay by-law, largely based on Wakefield's law. Chris added a section in which the requestor can expedite the process by seeking a buyer for the property or giving salvage

rights so that all or some of the property can be recycled. Comments should be e-mailed to Chris. A revised copy will be sent to Town Counsel and Steve will invite him to our Feb 7th meeting. Our choice would be that the Selectmen sponsor the item on the May warrant. The alternative is for us to secure 10 signatures on a petition. As part of educating the citizens we need to meet with the Finance and Advisory Board and the Selectmen.

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary