

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

May 5, 2009 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Senior Center

*Present:* Joan Quigley, Joanne DiMambro, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### 1. Reorganization

- Marcia Wengen and Paul Foley were appointed to 3 year terms by the Selectmen. Mr. Foley notified the Town Clerk's office that he could not attend tonight's meeting. The officers for 2009-10 are Stephen Rotondi – Chairman, Margaret Warren – Vice Chairman, Joan Quigley – Treasurer, Marcia Wengen – Secretary. There is one vacant seat.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of April 6, 2009 were amended (item 3, bullet point 3 “well” for “will”).

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Joanne was delayed. Steve reported a \$310 balance in the Operating Account. Estimated expenses include \$80 for the Heritage Award, \$55 for a marker as a gift to the Library, \$10 for an OBG Open sign leaving a balance for books of approximately \$165. Marcia recommended that we buy a copy of Stevens' History of Stoneham that could circulate. The two copies held by Stoneham and one by Lynnfield can only be used in their respective libraries. Joan will research book purchases. Margaret will speak with Mary Todd about a marker.

### 4. Fire Station

- The painting punch list is outstanding and is expected to be completed this month. Skylight project is in process. Installation scheduled for June.

### 5. Web Site

- Chris continues to support the web page. The members looked at his sample virtual tour that can be updated once the Walking Tour is finalized. Marcia has asked if text and/or audio can be added, but Chris has not replied.

### 6. Dow Building Cell Antenna

- The Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 23, 2009.
- Marcia passed around a copy of the color photo presented by the Metro/PCS attorney of a faux chimney installed at 16-22 Harvard Ave in Medford which demonstrates the corner joinery that looks real. The attorney also brought 3 samples of the fiberglass brick panels for the Board members to view.

- The motion to approve the Metro/PCS request was lengthy and contingent on MHC approval (which is overdue) and was approved 5-0. Michael Dufour was appointed liaison between the ZBA and Metro/PCS to be sure the work is done as specified. A letter will be prepared by Mr. Juliano reciting the motion and signed at or before their May meeting.
- Mr. Juliano asked if the Historical Society (he meant Historical Commission) should be mentioned in the motion and Marcia said no. She explained that the HC makes a recommendation to the Mass Historical Commission who then issues the “adverse/no adverse effect” letter.
- Cathy Rooney in the ZBA office at Town Hall told Marcia that Verizon requested an abutter’s list for the Dow Building. It appears they are moving forward with their project for telecommunications gear on that roof.

#### 7. Preservation Month

- The Heritage Award ceremony for Joe Rolli and the Fire Fighters will be at the selectmen’s meeting on May 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- Marcia noted that she ordered 2 citations, one for Chief Rolli and one for the Fire Fighters.
- Mary Todd has agreed to speak about our 150-year-old library at the joint meeting of the Historical Society and the Commission on May 14. If the announcements do not appear in the local papers this week, Marcia will contact Bee Russo, publicist for the Society.
- The OBG will be open from 10-1 on Saturday May 30 unless that date is changed at the May 14 meeting with the Town Administrator.; Joan described her chance meeting with a Stoneham resident who is a Civil War interpreter. She will follow-up to see if he might be interested in attending our October Open House for the OBG.
- Joan agreed to research the minister’s records at the Congregational Church for mention of slave and Native American burials in the OBG.
- The Harvard MA Historical Society notified Marcia that I.N. Stone was indeed a “monument carver” in Harvard, a town with significant slate quarries. His full name was Isaac Newton Stone. He signed the Ann Cleaves and Infant headstone in the OBG.

#### 8. Measured Mile/Historic Walk

- Margaret reported that the History Walk subcommittee continues to meet regularly to prepare the brochure and markers. Because of the medallion design, the walk now requires exactly 12 sites and has had to expand from a one-mile walk with 10 sites to a considerably longer walk.
- Margaret reported Mary Marchant has only seen the sections that Linda Secondini and Donna Weiss researched. The bronze medallions and the gateway signs are being worked on.
- Marcia noted she had been contacted by Sharon Iovanni concerning the availability of the Walking Tour flyers on July 16 for an event on the Common. She is planning a historic walk and cook-out as a “Business After Hours” event. Sharon is willing to make copies but they will not be in color.

9. Historic House Marker Program

- Margaret noted that nine markers have been requested. Five are done. Four are pending research: 170 Franklin St, 573 Main Street, 69 Washington Street, 40 Wright Street.
- Joan will ask the Collincote Street folks about a picture of their sign.
- Marcia reported that 69 Washington Street will soon be on the market again, this time as a two-family house. The owner has provided some basic information that Joan was able to substantiate.

10. New Business

- Research Fees. Steve reported that the Historical Society Board will be enforcing the research fees because of the cost involved in opening the building. Until September 1, the Historical Commission will not be charged for research. After that date the Commission will be charged at the member rate. The application is being re-written to state that non-members will pay \$20 and HS members will be charged \$5/hour up to 2 hours.
- Marcia requested that we discuss this at the next meeting, especially if the payment will come from our budget.

The meeting ended at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia M. Wengen, Secretary