

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

March 3, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen *Absent:* Paul Foley

Guest: Michael Collins

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. North School

- Members will recommend to the Town Administrator that Mr. Collins be allowed to install four exhaust and air intake pipes for gas furnaces by making penetrations in the north, west and south walls as marked on plans dated March 3, 2014. The west and south doors, transoms and sidelights will be manufactured by Therma-Tru. The design remains the same as on the March 4, 2013 plans. Color of the doors and vent covers as well as outside lighting will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Mr. Collins will confirm that the clothes dryer vents exit through the roof. The gas meters are on the north side of the building. The electric meters are on the south side of the building. The water meters will be inside the building. Due to the cold, long winter the retention basins to manage storm water runoff may not be installed in time for a June opening.

2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of February 3 were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan made the Treasurer's report of \$355 in our operating budget and \$1,160 in the donation account.

4. Website

- A page on the Civil War Sesquicentennial has been added.

5. House Markers

- No report given.

• Burial Ground

- A draft of the bid proposal for conservation of the 39 high risk gravestones was presented. No edits were made. Marcia will forward to David Ragucci, Town Administrator.

6. Tidd Gates

- No report given.

7. Fundraising – tax bills

- No progress. Steve will check with Diane Murphy.

8. Civil War Grant

- No report given.

9. Weiss Farm Comment Period

- No report given.

10. Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest Law

- Marcia will check with Town Clerk about overdue paperwork.

11. Wireless Antenna in Senior Center Barn

- A warrant article for May Town Meeting will propose that a wireless overlay district be created at 136 Elm Street. A photo simulation of the 1917 barn was reviewed by the members.

12. 38 Pleasant St

- Marcia will notify the Mass Historical Commission that the Lovejoy House (STN.97) was destroyed by fire on Thanksgiving Day (11/28/2013) and subsequently demolished. In the MACRIS database the property is listed as 36 Pleasant Street.

- Marcia attended the Zoning Board of Appeals' continuation of the 38 Pleasant Street hearing. The Board voted 4-1 to refuse the developer his request for a variance in lot size that would permit him to build a two unit condominium on Lot A and on Lot B. By right these Residence B lot sizes are large enough to support a two unit condominium (9,500 s.f.) and a single family home (7,000 s.f.).
- Local resident Jim Sullivan wrote a letter to the Selectmen expressing his concern that no site plan review is required to be sure that "what is ultimately erected is sensitive to the historic character of the neighborhood and nearby structures".
- Marcia distributed a copy of the Warrant article for May Town Meeting that will ask for approval of a comprehensive site plan process for the Board of Selectmen. It addresses some of Mr. Sullivan's concerns but only for 3 family dwellings and more.
- Steve reminded us that in the past a demolition delay by-law warrant article did not have Selectmen support.

13. Expiring Terms

- Joan and Joanne's terms expire on April 30, 2014.

14. Priority Mapping Project

- Marcia distributed a summary of events that occurred at the North Suburban Planning Council (NSPC) Forum on Feb 26. Historical Commission representatives from Winchester, Reading and Stoneham requested support from NSPC regarding the 3,036 historical assets that were identified on one page of a 67-page report. The NSPC's definition of preservation has to do with land and open space not historic buildings.
- There is some interest in convening a group of local Historical Commission members to strategize, determine an agenda and promote it with NSPC.

15. Economic Developer job

- Members agreed to send an amended letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that this position be filled with an applicant who is well versed in historic preservation and its connection to economic development.

16. Heritage Award

- Request for nominations will be advertised in the Independent, the SUN and on-line in PATCH.

17. Joint Meeting of Society and Commission

- Members agreed that invitations for the May 8 presentation on 'Preservation of New England Properties' would be sent to owners of historic houses, including but not limited to those with our house markers plus two houses on Green Street and the Tay House on Elm.

18. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on Monday March 31

The meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary