

## **STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

November 3, 2014 - Meeting Minutes  
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Stephen Rotondi, Robert Shannon, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Absent: Paul Foley, Alec J. Poitzsch

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

### 1. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of October 6 were approved. Marcia noted that the Fire Station bay clearance problem will be solved with the purchase of a specially built ladder truck with an expected life of 20 years.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported a payment of \$25.59 for the 'OBG Open 10/25' sign, leaving a balance of \$189.41 in the operating account. The donation account is increased to \$1,204 with proceeds from the 10/25 event of \$28.

### 3. Old Business

- a. Website ~ reenactment photos have been added; Marcia will inquire if videos are allowed on the site.
- b. Longfellow Bridge Bench ~ Joan reported the bench is temporarily located at the Senior Center and a marker has been order and will be paid for by the town.
- c. House Marker Program ~ four markers are still at Gamit Signs; no new applications; Joan reported that two residents who came to the OBG are interested.
- d. Burial Ground ~ 74 attendees total; 30-35 at the actual reenactment; Joan and Marcia postponed the November 2 tour for members of the First Congregational Church due to inclement weather; Marcia reported no progress on finding a stone conservator with the \$9,500 allocation in 2013.
- e. Tidd Gates ~ Jim Cotter, great, great grandson of Mr. Tidd, has not responded to Marcia's request to gather his relatives for a dedication of the new sign.
- f. Civil War Grant ~ content of Col. Gould marker will be presented at the next meeting; Robert has access to information at the GAR Hall in Lynn; discussion about tying other Civil War vets (Surgeon Heath and the Whittier brothers); also the black sailor who is buried in the Veteran's Circle.
- g. Weiss Farm ~ next meeting is a hearing at the Housing Appeals Committee on Dec 11 at 10 am in Boston.
- h. Open Meeting Law/Conflict of Interest ~ Paul Foley owes on-line conflict of interest tutorial; conflict of interest is reviewed every two years; open meeting law is reviewed annually.
- i. Warrant Article for Façade Improvement Program ~ Article 11 passed at Oct 24 Town Meeting; given that the Town Planner position remains vacant, \$30,000 will be moved from personnel to operating budget for the purpose of making grants or loans to business owners to improve storefronts, signs, etc. The Historical Commission shall be consulted on changes to buildings 50 years of age or older.
- j. Recording History ~ progress on memory wall at the site of Marble Ridge Dairy/Fallon Farm; Kevin Maley, who is developing the 294 apartment units on that site, referred Marcia to the 'memory wall' at Alta Stone Apartments in Melrose commemorating the Boston Rubber Shoe Company. Attorney Houghton and Neal Dike have family ties to the farm dating back to 1885 and will be asked about providing memorabilia.
- k. Local Historic District – Chestnut Street ~ Marcia has not met with Brenda Flynn, members discussed a sign celebrating Nobility Hill National Historic District – need to work out design, cost, and location.

- l. Sirius XM Radio ~ on hold at Zoning Board of Appeals; Marcia posted question on MassHistPres listserv re: is satellite radio subject to Section 106 review; one response to her post was spam
  - m. Speaker for HS/HC Joint Meeting ~ Joan will work on details with Bee Russo, HS President for presentation by Alison Simcox and Douglas Heath regarding their new 'Images of America' book on the Middlesex Fells.
  - n. Demolition Delay ~ no response from Jim Sullivan regarding Selectmen's position on Demo Delay. Joan noted the likely demolition of the Loring House in Beverly in spite of a delay order.
4. Old Business
- a) North School ~ two units remain; one is under agreement and one is for sale.
5. Open Forum
- a) Steve Rotondi noted that the time capsule celebrating Stoneham's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1975 is buried under the marker near a tree in front of the Police Station on Central Street.

The meeting ended at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary