

STONEHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 8, 2014 - Meeting Minutes
Stoneham Public Library

Present: Joanne DiMambro, Joan Quigley, Margaret Warren, Marcia Wengen

Absent: Paul Foley, Stephen Rotondi, Robert Shannon

Guest: Alec J. Poitzsch, resident considering applying for HC

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Guest

- Alec was welcomed and Marcia explained that the Alternate position cannot vote at Commission meetings unless there is no quorum and he/she has been designated by the chairperson to fill in for an absent regular member. He/she is of course welcome to participate in the meetings.

2. Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of June 2 were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Joan reported \$385 in the operating account and \$1,160 in the donation account.
- A four drawer lateral file cabinet was purchased in June for \$ 519.97 using the \$309 from the operating fund and \$210.97 from the Donation Account. Members agreed to reimburse Marcia \$170 for her donation toward the file cabinet now and the balance of \$40.97 in June if there is money in the operating budget.

4. Old Business

- a. Town Day is Saturday September 13. We will meet at 9:15 am on Central St. Marcia, Joan, Joanne and Margaret will cover the booth until 4 pm. The Commission is participating in the Passport Program and the question in the booklet reads: what is the name and date on the oldest headstone in the Old Burying Ground? Answer: Timothy Wright 1728.
- b. Bench Donation - Joan discussed the donation of a bench to the Town from Biz Reed of Olde New England Granite in Wakefield who reclaimed the granite from the ca. 1900 Longfellow Bridge in Cambridge/Boston. The Town will pay for an identifying marker. The bench is temporarily located near the bocce court at the Senior Center 136 Elm St. but will be relocated to the Greenway upon its completion, estimated to be 2016.
- c. Arcadia Book - On August 1st, the Historical Society received an e-mail from the Massachusetts editor of Arcadia Publishing regarding a new program called *Images of Modern America*. The focus of a 96-page book would be recent history of a community or topic starting in the mid-1900's and continuing through present day. The proposal was discussed and questions about a marketing plan, volunteers and access to the Historical Society were raised. No conclusion was reached.
- d. Vision & Action Plan – Marcia encouraged members to attend the Oct 1 Open House which is being held to gather input from the community about a vision for economic development and growth in the Town Center. The Historical Commission has a seat of the Advisory Committee.
- e. Naming Streets – Marcia will research how streets are named in Stoneham. She will speak with the Veteran's Agent about a joint warrant article for October Town Meeting to have civic ancestors (the Hay family for example) and local veterans recognized when new streets are created.
- f. Recording History
 - Marcia presented a draft of a July 22 letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals requesting funds to document the history of Weiss Farm. Attorney Witten's recommendation was to hold the letter until the ZBA reaches consensus that the project should be approved and then have the money be a condition of approval.

- Marcia noted that Attorney Houghton has been supportive of documenting the history of Fallon Farm/Marble Ridge Dairy where his client's new apartment complex, Stoneham Crossing, will be built.
- The members agreed that documenting local history is an appropriate direction for the Commission.

5. Old Business

- Website - there are two additions: the 2014 Heritage Award and our minutes from June 3, 2002 to current.
- House Marker Program – Margaret noted that Gamit Signs has carved but not painted 4 markers: Stoneham Theatre, 12 Tremont St, 21 Cottage, 12 Beacon Street.
- Burial Ground – no progress; some of the yellow caution tape needs to be replaced.
- Tidd Gateposts – Mr. Saia and his son would be delighted to attend a dedication of the Tidd historic marker on his property. Marcia will follow-up with Jim Cotter, who is the great grandson of William Tidd.
- Civil War Grant – no progress on Col. Gould's marker. Still need to decide the location.
- Weiss Farm – next Zoning Meeting is September 17 at 7:30 pm
- Open Meeting/Conflict of Interest – Paul needs to take the on-line conflict of interest tutorial; If Alec joins us, he will need to read the Open Meeting Law and take the tutorial.
- 19 High Street – no discussion
- North School – papers are passed on 9 of the 11 condo units. The west entrance has new stairs with railings adorned "NS", mimicking the "NS" on the railing above the door.
- 12 Tremont Street – Over the summer the Board of Health issued a letter for violations to the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code. The result was a new roof and a \$54K proposal. With permission from the Health Agent, Marcia responded to the proposal noting what would be acceptable for windows and porch column replacements. Also Marcia noted three of the Health Agent's citations which had not been addressed. As of this meeting no reply has been received but at least the building is enclosed against bad weather.
- Demolition Delay – Marcia asked Jim Sullivan to review a draft of the June minutes regarding Demo Delay and his willingness to approach the Board of Selectmen for their position on the topic. No reply yet. Margaret handed out a flyer for saving 186 Summer Ave in Reading. Their demo delay is in effect until January to prevent a 'school' from replacing this historic home.

The meeting ended at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Wengen, Co-Chair & Secretary